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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-211
Wednesday
1 November 1995

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Amman Conference Delegates Give News Conferences

PLO's Nabil Sha'th

JN3110153495 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 31 Oct 95

[News conference by Nabil Sha'th, PA minister of planning and international cooperation, with foreign and domestic correspondents at the press center in Amman—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Sha'th, in English] It is a pleasure to address you. I know you've had two very busy days. I am really sorry President 'Arafat was not able to meet with you yesterday. It was very difficult. It was a special meeting with his majesty the king. I am not starting with an opening statement, except to say how impressed I am and the Palestinian delegation is with the hospitality, the organization, the success that Jordan really did all possible to achieve of this conference. We feel as Palestinians really, ourselves, in our brothers' home, as President 'Arafat would say our twin brother's home, taken care of, supported. And we think this conference is part of a process that will lead eventually to more and more success in tackling regional economic problems. I will stay at that. Thank you very much, his majesty the king, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and everybody involved in making this conference the success it is. And I am ready to answer your questions. Maybe there we can tackle more substantive issues.

[Unidentified correspondent] Since the signing of the Paris economic agreement between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Israel, Israel is still hindering the implementation of this agreement, and is still imposing an embargo on Palestinian land and obstructing the freedom of movement to and from the Palestinian territories, both trade movement and individuals' movements. It is also hampering the implementation of the economic agreement between Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. Under such circumstances, how could Israel be committed to the implementation of the regional agreements that it has signed while refusing to fulfill its commitments, and in light of the absence of sacred dates or agreements to the Israeli side? Have you obtained any guarantees to stop Israel's siege policy and collective punishment of the inhabitants of the Palestinian territories? Thank you.

[Sha'th] Israel's credibility in implementing what it signs is regrettably not too greath. We confronted this in the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and we are confronting it now at the transitional agreement. The implementation of the agreement is facing serious difficulties imposed on us by the Israeli side. The Israeli army is implementing it very slowly. Regarding the closure, all that you have said is true and even more. The Gaza Strip and the Palestinian bank are besieged and isolated from both fraternal Jordan and Egypt. We are besieged from land, air, and sea. There is no freedom of movement, neither for individuals, nor for goods, cars, or news. We cannot even get Arabic newspapers published outside Palestine. Consequently, yes, there is an extreme difficulty. President 'Arafat spoke about these difficulties in his speech at the opening session. We have talked about them on all occasions. This conference should take notice of this issue because there cannot be free trade, a regional market, and a Middle East economy while Israel imposes a siege on that small part, our homeland, Palestine, which is still besieged by the Israeli forces.

[Layla Dib, Press Service; in English] Dr. Sha'th, what do you think Palestine has got out of this conference?

[Sha'th, in English] I'd like to really reiterate what I've told many of you. This is not a pledging conference. We did not expect this conference [to be] a place where countries and institutions pledge specific amounts of money for specific projects. That exercise was done in the Paris Consultative Group organized by the World Bank a few days ago, and it will be done, I hope, even more effectively at the ministerial meeting of the donors for Palestine, which will convene in Paris on the 11th of December, next month. So, that is not a pledging conference, but that is a conference which sets out strategic visions and draws out plans for future regional development and cooperation. It also is a place where people meet, both the private enterprise, the governmental levels, and international institutions. And I think we have put our case very clearly in the strategic visions of our region, and we've put forward our projects for regional, as well as for vertical Palestinian requirements. And I think we've also had an opportunity to network and communicate the hundreds of people who were here in a favorable climate. One should look at this as part of a process, I mean at least the way these things have been planned, and not a place where one can achieve specific numbers attached to specific projects.

[Correspondent] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, regardless of the negative or positive aspects of this economic conference, it seems that this summit, which is called economic, has had political dimensions. It also seems that it has highlighted the Arab-Israeli differences on the one hand, and the inter-Arab differences on the other. What is the nature of differences—regarding the peace process, of course—between the Israelis and the Arabs? Thank you.

[Sha'th] We cannot fully separate economics from politics, or even partially. This is a special case, which moved from struggle and confrontation—and decided with an attentive will to terminate the military struggle and armed violence of solving problems—to a peaceful way based on negotiations to resolve the true problems. We do not talk about problems between neighbors only. Our—the Palestinian people—our territories were occupied. More than half of the people were expelled from their land. Their capital is occupied, and their land is under occupation. There are true problems. How can we speak about the best use of water, for example, without speaking about the Palestinian people's right to their water? How can we speak about the best use of resources to build an infrastructure of territories which are occupied and on which settlements are built on them? There are true problems. It is impossible to say that economic problems can be fully addressed without linking them in one way or another to the political state of affairs. The difference here is that we talk about this political state of affairs out of a commitment to peace, not out of a commitment to going back to war. We proceed from negotiations, not from armed struggle. I believe that this is the best progress. I believe we should not exaggerate inter-Arab differences. This is a transient issue, and I do not think it has affected this conference. I believe it would not be wise to exaggerate differences. Regarding the Arab-Israeli relationship, the Israelis are here; they are among us, speaking and discussing things. We are not talking about armed struggle; we are talking about differences that are resolved peacefully and where economics and politics are inseparable. Despite this, the economic tone was the clearest. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent, Israeli radio; in English] President 'Arafat raised the problem of Jerusalem on the opening session, and Mr. Peres yesterday said that Jerusalem was never a Palestinian capital and on the other side, it was always the capital of the Israeli people. [sentence as heard] What would you answer him, please?

[Sha'th, in English] I don't think Mr. 'Arafat, really, somehow introduced the Jerusalem issue inappropriately or out of context. The Jerusalem issue was imposed upon this conference by the irresponsible decision of the American Congress, totally irresponsible, coming out of a very short vision based on the limited, small interests for voter support in a coming election against the real interests of the United States in peace, against the commitment of the United States Administration, past and present, towards the peace process and towards Jerusalem, against international legality about Arab Jerusalem, East Jerusalem being an occupied territory for which nobody accepted its annexation by Israel, including the United States of America.

The American Congress is not the appropriate branch of the American Government to decide a new Balfour Declaration awarding Israel or anybody else the land of the Palestinians to be the undivided capital of any state. Therefore, I think it was quite appropriate for Mr. 'Arafat to note that this decision, coming at this time, on the eve of this conference, hurts rather than helps this process. Furthermore, Mr. 'Arafat, I think, indicated that even though it is very clear where our objectives lie, and it is clear where our rights are, we have decided to negotiate the permanent status of Jerusalem in the permanent status negotiations which start, hopefully, at most by the 5th of May of next year. And, therefore, I think he was much within the peace process and its requirements in his pronouncement and his judgment. What one really takes issue with is whether it was proper judgment for Mr. Peres yesterday to engage in a historical controversy that has absolutely no feet or legs to stand on.

If one wants to go and look as to how Arab Jerusalem is, and how part of every Arab reign, every Arab regime, every Arab dynasty that have been in this place for the last 2,000 years—one would then have to stretch his imagination as to what history are we talking about: 47 years ago or 3,000 years ago? Such an engagement in history really misses the point, creates controversy, agitates, and in Amman, in an Arab Muslim capital of an Arab Muslim country that is doing its best to create a climate conducive to peace. To make a pronouncement like that of Mr. Peres yesterday is unfortunate, is erroneous, and creates that wrong climate, totally different from what Mr. Peres himself has been trying to do or, at least, what everybody read in his attempts to create a climate conducive to peace.

Jerusalem is an Arab city. East Jerusalem has been occupied by the Israeli forces in 1967. All the United Nations resolutions and the American guarantees when we started the peace process insist that Arab Jerusalem is not annexed. Its annexation has not been accepted by any state that I know of, including the two Central American countries that have shifted their embassies to West Jerusalem. Therefore, it is nobody's business at this stage of the game to deny the Arab Palestinian character of Jerusalem, nor to deny the right of the Palestinians once this part of Jerusalem is returned to them in an independent Palestinian state. Within the context of the peaceful negotiations in the permanent status, Arab Jerusalem must be the capital of the state of Palestine, even though measures for keeping an open city for every faith and a safe place for every worshiper has been a guarantee of every Palestinian pronouncement. I think Mr. 'Arafat's simile of saying we would like to see in Jerusalem a Rome with a Vatican and an Italian capital, and not a Berlin with a wall separating two parts of a beleaguered city, is, I think, the height of responsibility, vision, and proper climate for the future of the two people, the Israelis and the Palestinians, wanting to live side, sharing Palestine and also sharing Jerusalem into its east and its west. [passage omitted]

['Isam Qadamani, AL-RA'Y] Dr. Sha'th: Yesterday the Israeli foreign minister raised the issues of developing the region and raising its standard of living in order to achieve security. How do you view this in light of the pressure Israel is placing on Palestinian economy, particularly in the field of foreign trade, and what is the Palestinian concept of development and security in the region?

[Sha'th] Of course, we must differentiate between our vision of the current situation and our tactical, short-term vision on the one hand and our strategic vision on the other. In the long term, we believe that peace will be achieved on the ground, and that achieving it through the stages we have accepted will certainly lead in the final analysis to Israel's withdrawal from all of the territories that were occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem; to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Arab Jerusalem as its capital; to the liberation of territories that Israel is now occupying in Syria and Lebanon; and to the establishment of a comprehensive peace in which regional cooperation and free trade take place among the region's peoples, including Israel.

This is our strategic vision, and were it not for this strategic vision, we would have rejected any cooperation based on the current situation. The current situation is not the one we are planning to perpetuate. The current situation is part of a transitional stage, and there is a certain agreement to transfer the Palestinian Authority to the West Bank, deploy the Palestinian forces in the West Bank, and carry out further Israeli withdrawals from Palestinian territories. But this is not the final solution. Regrettably, during these transitional steps, Israel is taking actions against all that we are planning for at this conference and against the spirit and pronouncements of the Amman economic conference and of all the other conferences. It is impossible to say that the reason for this is the security problem. I say this honestly because I am one of those who believe in the peace process; in stopping violence as a means of dialogue; and in not killing any Palestinian, Israeli, Jordanian, or Arab in this region, including the murder of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi. I am against all kinds of killing and political assassination, and consequently I oppose any acts of violence against the Israelis.

Where is security in banning Jordanian goods from entering the West Bank? I would like to understand this. Where is the security dimension in banning 100 tonnes of Jordanian apples from entering the West Bank? Where is the security dimension in these restrictions imposed daily on the unity of the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza Strip? There is an attempt by the Israeli military authorities to disrupt the integrity of the Palestinian territory. There is no freedom of movement of goods and cars. What is that security problem, which makes Israel allow only 15 trucks or seven trailers from Jordan per day and only 15 trucks or seven trailers from Egypt, while 2,400 trucks enter Gaza from Israel daily. I would like to understand where the security is in this?

The problem is not only one of security. Part of the Israeli society and even part of the Israeli Government have not yet absorbed the concept of peace about which we are talking at this conference. Narrow economic interests are still prompting Israel to keep Palestinian economy under its economic hegemony and to oppose a free Palestinian economy that is open to its Arab brothers. Due to its narrow economic interests, Israel is still trying to encroach on the final solution by exercising pressure during the transitional stages, and Israeli society is still maintaining views that conflict with the vision of this conference.

I honestly and objectively say that this does not represent all of the Israeli people or the whole Israeli Government. Certain factions in Israeli society and the Israeli Government, however, really want to move quickly toward a true peace. In the current situation, the Israeli Government is not in harmony with this view. Yet we are discussing the future out of our strategic belief that the current situation will not last and that we will gradually move toward a just and true peace based on mutual interests and equality among the parties involved rather than imposing a military and economic hegemony over one of the parties.

[Ahmad al-Suyufi, AL-SHA'B] I have two questions. The first is: THE WASHINGTON POST held a dialogue with Yasir 'Arafat three weeks ago. When asked why he was talking about jihad, he said he was talking about jihad to win Palestinian public support for peace. And when asked about his concept of jihad, he said that to him, jihad was building. Have these new concepts been launched as a result of the reconciliation talks? And is it right to launch such concepts before reaching a just solution to the cause? The second question is: Reports say that attempts are under way to empty Palestine of Palestinians or at least to settle those who are outside the occupied territories. It has also been said that the United States has agreed to grant citizenships to 80,000 Palestinians. Please answer these two questions. Thanks?

[Sha'th] This is simple. Thank you for the questions. I will answer the second question first. There are no citizenship or residence permits for 80,000 people, and there is no attempt to empty Palestinian land. In the view of the Palestinian people, just and lasting peace will not become reality unless all the problems that have been postponed until the final stage are solved. Their postponement, however, does not mean canceling them but means only that we are creating atmospheres of peace in stages in order to arrive at the difficult problems, foremost of which is the refugee problem. The repatriation of the refugees is part and parcel of the Palestinian view and logic. This also applies to even the partial solution under which nearly 30,000 Palestinians have returned to Gaza and the West Bank since the partial solution of Gaza and Jericho was launched. Repatriation is a core issue in the final status negotiations.

Regarding your first question, I can say that brother President Yasir 'Arafat gave the right answer, which is derived from the prophet's life and our Islamic history, by saying that there is a major and a minor jihad and that Prophet Muhammad, God's prayer and peace be upon him, interpreted major jihad and minor jihad in line with our concept of peace. Major jihad is fighting oneself, is building society, and is building institutions. Therefore, President 'Arafat did not create any new concept but depended upon Islamic teachings in an era of the Roman Empire and the Persian Empire and when Islam spread over only a small part of the Arab land. [passage omitted]

Egypt's Amr Musa

JN3110165895 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Oct 95

[News conference by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa with foreign and domestic correspondents at the press center in Amman on 31 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Musa, in English with superimposed translation into Arabic] Ladies and gentlemen, good evening. We are now trying to sum up the work of the Amman summit after our very successful meetings. You have attended and witnessed activities and thematic discussions. We are very much satisfied with the results. In our view, the Amman conference is part of the peace process. We hope the peace process will continue to advance and develop so that there will be peace in the entire region and so that we can enter the phase to which everyone aspires. That was the introduction. I will reserve my elaborate comments for the upcoming questions. My [Egyptian] colleagues here at this table are the ministers of tourism, industry, and international cooperation, and the head of the public investment association. The minister of tourism and administrative development will join us, as will the minister of petroleum and energy. I am now ready to take your questions.

[Unidentified correspondent, Egyptian TV; in English with superimposed translation into Arabic] Mr. 'Amr Musa, my question is in two parts. Please answer me in English and in Arabic. Egypt has always been a pioneer in the quest for peace in the region, giving peace priority over any desire for economic dealings on the level of North Africa and the Middle East. However, at the same time, Egypt is interested in economic development. God willing, the Middle East Development Bank will be headquartered in Egypt. Can you explain to us the Egyptian point of view, especially since Egypt is the pioneer in the call for peace in the Middle East?

[Musa] Thank you. The peace process started a long time ago. It started years ago, when Egypt took the first step. After the Madrid conference, the various tracks began to work. Certainly, progress has been achieved in the peace process since the Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement and the agreement between Palestinians and the Israelis. This progress has given the peace process a momentum and boosted its credibility. Therefore, the peace process effectively is not dead. Rather, it is active on a number of tracks. However, what is important is that it should be active on all tracks and that the objective should be clear to everyone. On the Palestinian track, all of the national rights of the Palestinian people must be achieved. On the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, Israeli troops must withdraw from their occupied territories. Since there is progress on a number of tracks and since there are contacts and moves on the other tracks, it is hoped that progress will be achieved and new agreements will be concluded in the near future.

On this basis, the debates and meetings of the Amman summit seek to advance economic cooperation as part of the existing peace process. This means that all the tracks should be invigorated at the same pace. We do not give attention to one track more than the other tracks or sectors. We do not want to mix the tracks and the sectors. The tracks are the Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks. By the sectors, we mean the political, economic, and security sectors. All these are the main foundations for peace in the Middle East. Therefore, as long as there is progress in the peace process, there can be progress in the economic sector. In parallel to this, there should be progress in the security area, such as disarmament. This is the Egyptian position which we have expressed, and this achieves the balance we seek, because peace in the Middle East cannot be based on one foundation or progress in one area. Regarding the Bank, it was agreed upon as the first institution. You may recall that the final statement at the Casablanca summit stipulated the establishment of a Middle East Development Bank and the establishment of a council of businessmen, and a tourism organization or board. These issues were focused on at this conference, primarily the issue of the Bank. There is agreement on setting up the Bank in Cairo but there is no agreement on when and how it will be set up. There are also some other issues which will not be negotiated until the end of this year; it may take even more time. When all details are worked out, the Bank will be established. This issue was decided at the Amman summit. I understand there is English translation so I will not repeat in English.

[Faysal Malkawi, SHIHAN weekly] Mr. Minister: We know that Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1987, that is, 16 years ago. A comprehensive Arab boycott of Egypt then followed. We all know that Jordan played a major role in breaking this boycott and returning Egypt to Arab ranks. We are also aware of the major Syrian-Egyptian dispute then. Jordan also played a key role in approximating views between Syria and Egypt. However, today Syria is boycotting the Amman conference and Egypt is uncomfortable at the conference. Is Jordan required to lag behind at the expense of the interests of its people, leadership, and nation?

[Musa] Certainly, Jordan is not asked to lag behind, as you say, at the expense of its people and interests. Certainly, this is not the case, and no one asked it to do so. Jordan is a fraternal Arab country and it knows, just as we and others know, where Arab interests lie and where the interest of peace lies. We all believe that peace is the natural situation that should prevail in this region. You said that we are uncomfortable, but this is not true. We came to the summit and we are extremely comfortable. This is especially true since our delegation is probably the second or third largest delegation in this conference. This shows that we take the summit very seriously. However, and I said this in my previous answer, I say that we are talking about a comprehensive peace process. In this process, we must be concerned with the process itself, meaning withdrawal, security, etc, especially on the Palestinian track, given the special circumstances of the Palestinian people. Egypt thinks that we should talk about security and disarmament while speaking about economic cooperation. Egypt said this previously and reiterated it at Casablanca and in Amman again. We are proposing a comprehensive peace, as it should be. I don't think you, or any other Arab, could regard this as a sign of dissatisfaction. On the contrary, this is an expression of putting things in order regarding peace because peace, for us, is an issue that is decided strategically. There must be peace between the Arabs and Israel. We must end the stage of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of land for peace and mutual rights and commitments. This is our position, which I believe Jordan and all the other Arab countries, including Egypt, endorse.

[Wajih Abu-Zarifah, Palestinian journalist from Gaza] Mr. 'Amr Musa, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres spoke about Jerusalem yesterday. He said it is the eternal capital of the State of Israel and that all parties, whether Muslims or Arabs, cannot talk about it and that it should never be divided. How will this Israeli position, which contradicts all of Israel's pledges and the resolutions of international legitimacy, be confronted? Regarding the Palestinian refugees and displaced persons, were any plans discussed or presented in this summit to improve their conditions until their political issue is settled?

[Musa] What the Israeli foreign minister mentioned concerns the Israeli position. It is not binding on us. He may talk, claim certain rights, or adopt certain positions regarding Jerusalem. To us, this position is not valid. We completely disagree with the viewpoint expressed by Mr. Shim'on Peres. Negotiations on Jerusalem have not yet led to an agreement on the final status of Jerusalem as a city. We insist that Jerusalem is an open issue. No final status for it has been agreed upon. An agreement should be reached among the parties in the final status negotiations as it was agreed in Oslo. The extreme interest of all Arab countries in the question of sovereignty on Jerusalem should be taken into account. Moreover, there are religious concerns. It should also be understood that Shim'on Peres, or any Israeli official, has the right to talk as they wish about Jerusalem, just as we have the right to talk about the issue of Jerusalem. The important thing is that no changes are effected in Jerusalem. No changes should be introduced in the features or the demographic structure of Jerusalem. Regarding the legal status, all the resolutions of international legitimacy reject all measures that change the status of Jerusalem. We listen to the other viewpoints, but our own viewpoints remain the same. They will continue to be so.

As for the issue of refugees and displaced persons, certainly the question of refugees and displaced persons is an important one. It is left for the final-status talks. You know there is a committee entrusted with the issue of refugees within the framework of the multilateral talks. There is also a working group on the displaced persons as stipulated by Oslo agreement. No progress has been made in the two committees. Work should continue because the question of refugees is a key issue that should be discussed and an agreement should be reached on it so that peace can be comprehensive and just.

[Khalid Rahhal, AL-'AHD] Given that you advocate peace and you have been the pioneers of peace in the region, what role will you play in terms of closing the Syrian and Israeli viewpoints? Did you play the role of a mediator between them? When do you think an agreement or treaty will be reached between the two sides?

[Musa] I have said earlier, and I reiterate that Egypt is not a mediator between Israel and Syria, nor between Israel and any other Arab party. Egypt is an Arab country that adheres to the general framework of the Arab policy. We are interested in the realization of a peace that terminates the conflict between the Arabs and Israel. If we make certain efforts, we do this for the sake of the goal of peace and the Arab interest. Syria and Israel are negotiating along a joint track involving various levels. The U.S. Administration has an active role in this regard. When we are asked to make an effort on the Syrian track, we will do so. When we see that it is necessary to carry out a certain endeavor, we will do so. Negotiations between Syria and Israel continue. Syria has its say, and Israel has its position. This situation is different from negotiations on the Palestinian track for well-known circumstances. Therefore, Egypt's role is more active on the Palestinian level for the circumstances, which I think we all know.

['Ulayyan 'Ulayyan, AL-AHALI] The Jordanian newspaper AL-AHALI is the sister of the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHALI. [Musa and the other Egyptian ministers laugh] Your speech on 29 October showed a high national stand vis-a-vis the issues of the Palestinian state, Jerusalem, withdrawal from Golan and southern Lebanon, pan-Arab security, and establishing an area free from weapons of mass destruction. This leads to the following specific question: Do you not believe that this conference and the economic and diplomatic agreements between the Arab countries and Israel, which this conference will produce, will disappoint Syria and weaken its negotiating position with Israel? Thank you.

[Musa] Yes, this is the Syrian viewpoint. However, we must note that during the convening of this summit in Amman, the U.S. secretary of state left Amman for Damascus to meet with Syrian officials. In other words, during this conference there were activities on the Syrian track. To reiterate, some points which came in my speech at the opening session are major points, on the peace process, the outcome of peace, and the future concept of peace. There is no intention at all to turn any meeting or activity within the peace process into an obstacle to peace on any track. Please, look at things from two different angles: Yes, there is a view that the economic track and moving expeditiously on it would obstruct or undermine the political track with Syria and Lebanon. However, there is another view that this leads to expediting political action on the political track so there will be a balance between the two; and this is our view. Work must be done on this economic track and the agreements that are signed in this framework should expedite the political aspect of the peace process. This is because not all the Middle East countries or the countries of the region are taking part in what is happening here. It is in the interest of everybody that all should be involved in the economic cooperation process and that it should cover all areas. Now, some countries are not taking part, since Syria, Lebanon and others are not here. So it serves the interests of everybody if we speed up the peace process and reach peace agreements quickly in line with the land-for-peace principle so that this economic process can be boosted.

[Manna'] Jawdat Manna', a journalist from occupied Jerusalem. Mr. Minister: During this stage in the peace process, the United States and some European countries devoted their efforts to boosting the economy in the Middle East. Is the peace that Egypt concluded 17 years ago the direct reason why Egypt did not adopt the same approach for itself? I have another question....

[Musa, interrupting] I have a question first. I don't understand your first question.

[Manna'] Is the peace that Egypt concluded 17 years ago directly responsible for not embracing the same approach for developing the Middle East economy, especially the Egyptian economy?

[Musa] I just want to note that Egypt did not conclude peace 17 years ago. It started peace 17 years ago. Now what is your question? Let me tell you one thing. Why don't you take two or three minutes to reformulate your question. I will come back to you later.

[Taysir Faris, AL-WATAN] Can you tell us about the substance of the message you conveyed to his majesty the day before yesterday and is it related to what happened during and after your speech? Did Egypt attend the conference on certain conditions, such as Jordan stopping receiving foreign laborers, that the next conference should be held in Egypt, and that the regional development bank should be based in Egypt?

[Musa] I don't know where you get such reports. It is not true that there are conditions; this is absolutely untrue. Sometimes, a certain report is published by one or two magazines and then someone comments on this report and a third picks up this report and then people believe it. There is no truth to this. The first time I heard about this was here from some journalists. Regarding the message, I can't tell you the substance of the message to his majesty the king, but it was a message of amity and friendship. There was also some talk on the peace process which we discussed.

[Correspondent] We thank his excellency the minister for this frankness and clarity. In fact, this is the Egyptian role. Nothing less is expected from Egypt; this is the role necessitated by geography, history, and the facts. All my colleagues asked many of the guests two questions. The first is related to Iraq, and the second concerns Jerusalem. In fact, I did not ask because I know the answer of the foreigner friends in advance. But let me rush to his excellency the minister and ask him—because this is Egypt and this is the role expected from it....

[Musa, interrupting] You said let me what?

[Correspondent] Let me rush to his excellency the minister. [laughter]

[Musa] I just wanted them all to hear what you said.

[Correspondent] In fact, the two flanks of the nation are Iraq and Sudan—and I say this because Egypt is the bigger brother, and is required to bear everything. This is its fate, and this is not one of its favors but it is one of its virtues. In fact, as far as Iraq is concerned, the subject went too far, and now the fate of children of a dear part of the nation is connected to the commitment to the international resolutions and other things which the foreigners demand. In fact, I believe that Egypt, in its capacity as the big brother, is required to do something in this regard. What is Egypt's role in lifting the siege on the Iraqi people? The second question concerns Sudan. Almost all the Egyptian people expressed solidarity with President Mubarak, and expressed their pride in him, and condemnation of the criminal assassination attempt, but the Sudanese are fraternal people. What is Egypt's role toward Sudan in this summit?

[Musa] Thank you for the questions and comments. First, the subject of Iraq: Undoubtedly, this subject is now presented, and we are all sorry for the living conditions of the Iraqi people. We are also disturbed by all that is said about the land and sovereignty of Iraq over all its land. This is something that no one of us can cede. Iraq's sovereignty over its land, and the future of the Iraqi people have become a great concern to many of us. On the occasion of my talk about the territorial integrity of Iraq, I also speak about the territorial integrity of Sudan. This a very clear Egyptian position. As for how to start, do not forget that the problem of Iraq has an international dimension as well as an Arab dimension. We should reach a formula to deal with the Iraqi subject in a manner that addresses the points I spoke about. Therefore, the subject is being presented as you know. As for the other question, about Sudan, yes, there are differences between Egypt and Sudan, but this does not negate the links between Egypt and Sudan and does not change the Egyptian positions toward Sudan in the present and the future because it is part of the Arab world and because its people have special links with the Egyptian people that cannot be broken and will not be damaged by the differences which resulted from our disagreement with the current trend of the Sudanese Arab and African policy. I do not want to refer to other issues that are known, but let us speak about the positive aspect of relations, and I think this is enough to answer your question.

[Correspondent] I want to speak in Arabic, and forgive me if some expressions are unclear. I represent the Arab Doctors Union in Europe, whose headquarters is in Bonn. I am also from the International Press. I carry two identity cards as you see. The International Press is a medical sector. [preceding sentence in English] We speak about peace, and what is understood by all is that the peace we speak about is the peace between us and Israel. What I want to know from your excellency is whether or not some neighborly countries lack peace with their peoples. Brother 'Awad hailed Egypt. Yes, Egypt is big in the hearts of all of us. Egypt made great strides in democracy. We all were pleased by this. But what happened recently was something like slaughtering of democracy. Many of our colleague journalists and doctors faced military courts in Egypt which was something that hurt us much. We want something to be done, especially in such a conference. You see that all peoples meet and speak together. He who knows these personalities who face military courts and whose activities are known on the Arab and non-Arab unions. [incomplete sentence as heard] Thank you.

[Musa] I thank you for your question, and I would like to tell you that to bring someone to court, means to give a chance for justice to say its word concerning the practices and behavior of that person. You also know that Egypt faced a wave of terrorist action, regrettably in the name of Islam. When Egypt is subjected to this terrorism, this does not mean that the Egyptian Government hands down sentences without trial. Some do this and do not give a chance for the defendants to say a word. We believe trials are obligatory. The trial should be fast and conclusive. Trials entrench justice and protect society before anything else.

['Abdallah al-Qaq, AL-DUSTUR] Your Excellency, we know that Egypt has a great role on Arab and international levels. But, we see that some Arab countries meet with Israel inside and outside the Arab world. Why does

Egypt not carry out a pioneering role, especially since it is a member of the Damascus Declaration? Why does it not play a role in terms of bridging the gap among the Arab countries, particularly among some sister countries and the Gulf states so that reconciliation, peace, and development can return to their normal path?

[Musa] Thank you sir. You expressed, on the behalf of all of us, the desire for Arab reconciliation and for the restoration of positive inter-Arab relations. This is an important issue with regard to peace, because if peace is established while divisions prevail in one of the major parties this will harm the general atmosphere. Egypt, as I said, has primary responsibility in this regard. Of course, we must know that Egypt is not happy with the current Arab situation. It seeks to heal the rift. President Mubarak is holding numerous contacts in this regard with Arab heads of state in the east and west. However, the division that plagued the Arab world, particularly after the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis, is a great one. It needs time to heal. It embittered many parties. The situation today is not like it was before five or six years ago, when there were differences here and there. This is a big rift. We hope we will succeed in this regard. Life has become a political one, it has become very complicated. Things are not easy. There is no black and white, that is, if we do this then this is right and if we do this then this is wrong. Things have become extremely complicated with various colors and roles. We have to address all these things, including rifts and political and economic differences. This is a difficult issue. This task is very immense. This is the responsibility of Egypt and all Arab countries, leaders, and peoples.

[Fathi Sanawbar, chief editor of the Arab Economy Magazine] Your Excellency, the Casablanca conference failed and its recommendations were not implemented. This was stated by a European ambassador. A short while ago, in a news conference, an official accompanying Mr. Ross, said that Arabs deposited $250 billion in foreign countries. My information, is that $500 million dollars were deposited by Arabs. How can we trust U.S. credibility toward the Arabs in light of this statement, noting that 55 percent of the American people live under the level of poverty. We have poverty. How can we trust the United States at a time when it says that Arabs deposited money in it?

[Musa] Okay, we will accept this information from, you that $250 billion were deposited in foreign countries. You said the figure was $500 billion. You want to say that if these funds were not deposited, they would have led to much prosperity in the Arab world. We say this in case we accept the statement that the deposits took place. That is my answer.

Qatari, Israeli Ministers Meet at Amman Conference

JN3110151095 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 31 Oct (WAKH) — Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at his place of residence here this morning. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit being held in Amman.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the meeting dealt with topics that were raised in the summit. The two sides also reviewed the general situation in the Middle East and the latest developments of the peace process.

King Husayn Reconciles Qatari, Egyptian Stands

JN3110214395 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn brought together Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani to reconcile the stands of both countries regarding the convening of the 1996 Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit. Thanks to his well-known wisdom, His Majesty King Husayn was able to reconcile both sides. The sisterly State of Qatar took the initiative and conceded its request to host the coming summit in favor of the sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt. It was agreed to convene the 1997 summit in the sisterly Qatar.

Following the meeting, his majesty the king made the following statements to reporters:

[Begin recording] [Husayn] All brothers were in the picture of the issue with regard to the coming conference and its venue. I am fully proud of the genuine Arab stand of our brothers in the State of Qatar, his excellency the foreign minister and the other members of the delegation who responded [to our request]. We always see promising signs in them. They are always keen to show that the Arabs are always brothers. So, they conceded their request to host the coming session in favor of Egypt. Also, they all agreed that the summit which will follow will be in Qatar.

[Unidentified correspondent] How do you assess the results of the summit?

[Husayn] I am very satisfied with all the results. I hope this will be a new starting point for all in this region to achieve the hopes, aspirations, prosperity, progress in all fields. You will naturally receive the details within a short time.

[Kassab Samawi, Amman TV] Sir, are you satisfied with the expected result of the summit; namely, to base in Jordan a financial institution, which is affiliated with the World Bank?

[Husayn] God willing. This is part of what we agreed on and of what will take place.

[Correspondent] Has the Amman summit succeeded in launching the private sector in economic development?

[Husayn] I am very much proud of the efforts of the private sector here, as well as its great, effective, and influential contribution. I am also proud of what it achieved in terms of appreciation and respect from all participants. In fact, the meeting was excellent in terms of all preparations. We thank all those who contributed to the success of this summit. This is how Jordan always looks. Praise be to God, the results were excellent. We only heard praise and commendation of all the arrangements which were taken and which produced big positive results, which will be felt by all, God willing.

[Correspondent] We have seen that you received the foreign ministers of Qatar and Egypt. Was the issue of the coming summit settled?

[Husayn] Yes, yes, in its final form.

[Correspondent] Sir, what is the significance of basing the REDWG [the Regional Economic Development Working Group] in Jordan?

[Husayn] I believe that this has great significance. Praise be to God, Jordan has a credibility and is very close to the heart of the cause and to the needs of the region. If the bank will be based in Cairo, the REDWG, God willing, will be here. We will continue to work with all brothers and all parties in this region to reach the future we all hope for.

[Correspondent] Have you met with Dennis Ross and has he briefed you on the results of Christopher's talks with President al-Asad?

[Husayn] No, I have not met with Mr. Ross. I only met with the secretary of state before leaving for Damascus.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty: Are you satisfied with the conference and its results?

[Husayn] I am very satisfied. If you see me a bit tired, it is because of the cold I have caught [laughs and coughs].

[Correspondent] Sir, do you really believe that the regional economy has been linked to the world economy through this conference?

[Husayn] Naturally. I believe that this has been actually achieved. By the way, if you, journalists in this country, observe how the world is viewing this conference and its accomplishments and the coverage given to it, then I believe that everyone of us will be happy and proud about what has been achieved.

[Correspondent] It is clear from the coverage your majesty has noted that there is world interest in Jordan's regional political and economic role. Are there clear signals or indications about Jordan's next move?

[Husayn] Jordan, God willing, will continue to take steady and wide steps toward a promising future for this region, the Jordanians, and everyone. I believe that I have already mentioned the basics in terms of our full and absolute support for our Palestinian brothers to help them attain their full rights over their national soil. Our sole objective is to support the Palestinian people. All the relations that Jordan has established and is establishing and all this credibility Jordan is building are for public interest and are in the service of our brothers in every issue. Jordan will do all its utmost to contribute toward resolving any difficulties that might hinder the march in the service of right and the future, God willing.

[Correspondent] Has a date been set for your visit to Saudi Arabia?

[Husayn] No. There is no specific date. A brotherly and extremely satisfactory meeting was held in the United States while we were there with His Highness Prince Sultan and a number of their highnesses the princes. I believe that the dark chapter of the past has been closed. I also received a message from my brother the custodian of the two holy mosques conveyed to me by the head of the Saudi delegation. The message, in fact, is full of the genuine noble Arab sentiments toward Jordan, me personally, and the conference itself. I believe the meeting will take place soon, God willing. I hope that I will have the opportunity to remind my brother the custodian of the two holy mosques of an old promise to visit Jordan. God willing, all this will be achieved. Thank God, we are brothers along the same march.

[Unidentified speaker] Your Majesty the King, as you have mentioned, the conference was successful by all standards in terms of preparation and content. Now let us talk about the follow-up. Will your majesty, following this national effort in the preparation, personally follow up the results of this conference?

[Husayn] Naturally, I will do so with my utmost ability from my position in my country and among my kinsfolk and brothers. This effort will be shared by all those who contributed to the preparation for this conference and enabled us, God be praised, to achieve what has been achieved. This of course includes my brother the crown prince, the Jordanian Government, the private sector, and all those who contributed to making this conference a success and enabled it to achieve the results it achieved. A final word: God be praised, Jordan is great with its people and its aspirations for the better, not for itself only but for everyone. I am so happy in this life to be a Jordanian, one of you, and for you.

[Correspondent] After this successful brotherly conference, do you believe that time has come to hold a summit conference, especially since your majesty has accustomed us to removing differences and supporting Arab action to achieve Arab reconciliation?

[Husayn] Be sure that I will constantly look for all that might lead to inter-Arab rapprochement and broader Arab understanding. I hope this will be achieved. [end recording]

Israel's Peres on Confederations, Other Issues

JN0111102695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Nov 95 pp 1, 8

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by P.V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on Tuesday described the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit as a great contribution to the concept of regional economic cooperation and development and to turning "political peace into economic peace."

"I think there had never been a stronger statement on Amman as an economic centre," Mr. Peres told reporters. "It has changed the value and location of Jordan in the minds of many people in the Middle East and abroad."

The Israeli foreign minister, addressing a press conference, denied he had proposed setting up major Israeli infrastructure projects in Jordanian territory and said that he was only suggesting joint facilities for the two countries instead of each developing its own.

Mr. Peres also told a press conference that Israel preferred to see a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation in the Palestinian territories, but that this was an issue that had to be discussed and agreed upon by Jordan and the Palestinian leadership.

The Israeli foreign minister, who was here to attend the MENA summit, said the issue of property owned by Jordanians in Jerusalem, which is under Israeli control since 1967 and described as "absentee property" despite the signing of a peace treaty between the King and the Jewish state, would be addressed "when the issue is brought up on the agenda."

Mr. Peres said the Israeli government was planning to set up its "largest" consulate in Amman so that visas could be issued to Jordanians "on the spot" rather than after a lengthy process that takes weeks now.

He described the summit as a great contribution to the concept of regional economic cooperation and turning "political peace into economic peace."

"I think there had never been a strong statement on Amman as an economic centre... it has changed the value and location of Amman in the minds of many people in the Middle East and abroad," he said.

Mr. Peres' approach at Tuesday's press conference, held at the Forte Grand Hotel and attended by a few Jordanian journalists, was dramatically different from the obviously aggressive, often lecturing, posture he adopted at an encounter Monday attended by hundreds of Jordanian, Palestinian, Arab and Foreign correspondents.

The minister told Tuesday's press conference that the "message" he wanted to deliver to Jordanians was essentially that of what could be achieved through regional economic cooperation.

"There are (economic) revolutions taking place in Latin America" and other parts of the world and "there are more economists in Asia than in New York," he said, adding "it is total nonsense" that "the colour of the skin" was a major factor in impeding development of Third World countries.

"I wonder why we cannot have such revolutions in the Middle East," which is endowed with "intelligent people" and natural resources, he said, calling for mobilising "goodwill, understanding and dialogue."

Asked whether recent comments attributed to him meant that Israel would like to set up some of its infrastructure projects in Jordanian territory but catering to Israeli needs, Mr. Peres said: "No, no, no."

On the contrary, he said, he was referring to joint infrastructure projects that benefit both sides. "For example the airport," he said. "If Jordan wants to have an international airport... other infrastructure... the seaport (now that) Jordan is trying to be the centre for the export of phosphates and potash—we have two ports (al-'Aqabah and Elat) and both are under-employed—let us have one port."

"Why have two railroads?" he said, referring to Jordan's plans to build a rail network while Israel has relatively good rail system.

The focus on Jordanian territory for such projects, he said, came because "Jordan is a far larger country than Israel. It has nearly 100,000 square kilometres while Israel, with the (occupied) West Bank and Gaza Strip, has only 24,000."

"There are also suggestion that the main station" for the supply of natural gas from Qatar "will be in Jordan," he said. "If Jordan wants to supply gas to Israel, why not?"

"The idea is basically is that the forecast is peace, not war," he added. "We don't want to organise our lives as enemies in the future, we are two friendly countries."

Mr. Peres also cited examples of European countries which house utilities for the exclusive use of another and said he did not find any reason why arrangements like that could not be made in the Middle East.

In reply to a question whether he envisaged an independent Palestinian state at the end of the final status negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) coming up next month, Mr. Peres said: "As far as the future is concerned, I have some other solutions. I've learnt in negotiations that any known solution becomes a dead solution because it mobilises so much opposition.

"I'd prefer to keep the preferred solution to myself until the time for a permanent solution comes, but I can tell you I have many solutions."

However, he added after an afterthought, "Our concern is to have the territories near Israel to be demilitarised... we would like to have a security depth.

"I believe that it is easier to keep the demilitarisation (as the case is now in the territories) in a confederation with Jordan. But this must be a decision taken by the Kingdom of Jordan and the Palestinians."

At the same time, there could be "two confederations, one an economic one, like Benelux, that would include Jordan, the Palestinians and us."

According to Mr. Peres, the geographic proximity among the three would warrant such a relationship.

"Take an issue like electricity," he said. "You cannot keep power (from crossing the borders)," he added, also referring to water, tourism and trade as other areas where an economic confederation made more sense.

"But when it comes to a political solution, I do not believe it is proper for me to comment since it is an issue that has to be negotiated between Jordan and the Palestinians."

Asked whether Israel would "push" for a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, Mr. Peres simply asserted: "Israel is not a pushing country, so we shall not push."

The Israeli minister said the fruits of peace would not be felt immediately on the popular level. "It is like an apple tree which takes several years" to bear fruits as opposed to "tomatoes, which take a few months."

Asked how Israel was treating the Jordanian demand for the return of property owned by Jordanians in Jerusalem, now that the two countries have made peace, Mr. Peres referred to the multilateral working groups on refugees and displaced persons and that these groups would deal with the issue.

"It is an issue (in which) both parties have claims, he asserted. "There are lost properties in other Arab countries."

But reminded that the issue was strictly bilateral and that there is no record of any Israeli losing his or her property in Jordan, the foreign minister said: "We will deal with the matter when it comes up on the agenda."

"With Jordan, peace started with answering the Jordanian demand by returning to Jordan all its land—380 square kilometres. We gave back Jordan's water. Now there are other issues, outstanding questions, (and) we shall deal with them as they come."

Mr. Peres described Jordanian-Israeli relations as developing in a very satisfying manner, "not only from our point of view but also from the Jordanian point of view."

"It is more than just an agreement between two parties." he said, referring to the two countries' joint efforts to raise $400 million in European assistance for water projects stipulated in the Jordan- Israel peace treaty and other collective moves towards developing bilateral as well as regional cooperation.

Mr. Peres predicted that Jordan's tourism revenue would go up to $800 million in 1995 and to $1.2 billion in 1996.

With the Palestinians, he said, the main problem was the "acts of violence."

"If these were to be eliminated, the picture will be totally different. We will not have to have closures (of West Bank and Gaza) and we will not have to have harass people... I can see very smooth relations."

'Amman Declaration' Issued at Close of Summit

JN3110212395 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1700 GMT 31 Oct 95

[Text of the "Amman Declaration" read by Dr. Talib al-Rifa'i, chairman of the Technical Committee, during the final session of the MENA Economic Summit held at the Palace of Culture in Amman on 31 October — live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On October 29 to 31, 1995, the second Middle East and North Africa [MENA] Economic Summit was held in Amman, Jordan, under the patronage of His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal. The summit, co-sponsored by the United States and the Russian Federation, with the support of the European Union, Canada, and Japan, brought together governments and business leaders from the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, the Americas, and Asia. Summit participants thanked His Majesty King Husayn for his able leadership and for the extraordinary efforts by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to make this summit a success. The participants also expressed their appreciation for the partnership of the World Economic Forum, which assisted so ably in organizing this event.

The goals of the summit were to facilitate the expansion of private sector investments in the region, to cement the public- private partnership which will ensure that end, and to work to enhance regional cooperation and development. In this spirit, business leaders from the Middle East, North Africa, and other regions were able to conclude a number of significant commercial and business transactions at the summit that will help augment the productive capacity of the region and contribute to its broad-based economic development. These ventures involved projects in the fields of tourism, telecommunications, and transportation. Reflecting this public-private partnership, a number of these ventures will benefit from government guarantees, technical assistance, and other support from the international community.

Government representatives conducted a series of negotiations over the past year on institutional arrangements as called for in the Casablanca Declaration which would help underpin the peace process. In this respect, the following agreements have been reached:

First: A Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development in the Middle East and North Africa will be established in Cairo. The bank—as described in its draft articles—will be structured to promote development of the private sector, support regional infrastructure projects, and provide a forum to promote regional economic cooperation. The Task Force will finalize its negotiations by December 31st of 1995 and will continue to explore proposals for the creation of a project preparation and financial intermediation facility. Those wishing to join the bank will begin their national ratification processes thereafter. Others wish to leave open the option of joining the bank at a later date, in light of the evolution of institutional arrangements and other developments. The economic summit will review this issue at its next meeting.

Second: The establishment of a Regional Tourism Board, the Middle East-Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Association, to facilitate tourism and promote the region as a unique and attractive tourist destination. The board will include both public and private representatives.

Third: The establishment of a Regional Business Council to promote cooperation and trade among the private sectors of the countries of the region.

Fourth: The formal inauguration of the Economic Summit Executive Secretariat, which is located in Rabat and works to advance the public-private partnership, promoting contacts, sharing data, and fostering private sector investment in the region. The participants expressed their appreciation to the Moroccan government for its contribution to this effort, and confirmed their support for its ongoing activities.

As a complement to the regional institutions called for at Casablanca, the Steering Group of the Multilateral Peace Negotiations has decided to establish the Regional Economic Development Working Group, REDWG, Monitoring Committee Secretariat as a permanent regional economic institution to be based in Amman. All participating parties have agreed that this institution will promote and strengthen regional economic cooperation in the Middle East and North Africa. The regional parties strongly recommend that the secretariat's activities will cover the range of sectors within the REDWG Monitoring Committee's work, i.e. infrastructure, tourism, trade, finance, and areas within the Copenhagen Plan of Action. The core parties, in close consultation with the European Union and other members of the Monitoring Committee, undertake to finalize the appropriate document on the structure and operational functions of this institution, which will be submitted to the next meeting of the REDWG plenary, with a view to the commencement of institutional activities in the first half of 1996. This REDWG plenary will consider the matter, take appropriate action, and report to the upcoming meeting of the Multilateral Steering Group.

The participants at the summit expressed their strong support for the continued progress in the peace process began at Madrid exactly four years ago, and the importance of achieving a comprehensive peace. Participants took particular note of advances made in the past year. Summit participants welcomed the signing of the Israeli- Palestinian Interim Agreement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and took favorable note of the significant progress made in implementing the Treaty of peace between Israel and Jordan. The summit welcomed the decision to organize in Paris, in December of 1995, the Ministerial Conference on Economic Assistance for the Palestinians. The summit also took note of the positive contributions made towards peace by multilateral working groups. While welcoming an increasingly positive atmosphere of openness in the region, the summit recognized that the circle of peace needs to be widened. Participants expressed the hope that peace agreements between Israel and Syria and Israel and Lebanon would be concluded as soon as possible. The summit welcomed significant steps taken by the regional parties to the Taba Declaration and by the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] with regard to lifting the boycott on Israel, and expressed its support for additional efforts to end the boycott.

The participants at the summit declared their intent to implement as soon as possible the understandings reached in Amman. With respect to commercial activities, the business representatives reaffirmed their intention to follow through on the commercial ventures reached here and to explore new opportunities to expand trade and investment in the region. On the part of governments, the officials attending the summit declared their intention to support activities of private sector, most particularly by getting the new institutions established in Amman up and running as soon as possible. The participants also welcomed the measures taken by the regional parties to open their economies and join the global economy.

To continue such processes whose blueprints and institutions have been established here in Amman today, two brotherly countries announced their interest to host the next session of MENA summit. They are Qatar and Egypt. His Majesty King Husayn conducted the necessary consultations with the distinguished representatives of the two brotherly states, as well as with other interested parties. He gladly announced that Qatar has graciously conceded its efforts to host the next summit in favor of Egypt, who will host it. And it has been agreed by all including Jordan, the present host, as well as Egypt and others, that Qatar will be the venue of the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit of 1997.

'Arafat Departs From Amman Following Conference

JN3110140195 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 31 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian National Authority Head Yasir 'Arafat left Amman this afternoon after participating in the Amman economic summit. On departure, 'Arafat was saluted by an honor guard.

Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, ministers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and state and military officials were present to see him off.

Various Delegations Depart After Summit

JN3110220295

[FBIS Editorial Report] Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic on 31 October carries in its 1915 GMT newscast reports on the departure of heads of delegations who took part in Amman Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit. These Include:

1. Moroccan Prime Minister Abdellatif Filai.
2. Omani Minister of National Heritage and Culture Faysal Bin- 'Ali Bin-Faysal Al Sa'id.
3. Indonesian minister of investment Sanyoto Sastrowardoyo.
4. (Orlech Ftacher), the personal representative of the Austrian chancellor.
5. (Joseph Sebtic), head of the Slovak delegation.
6. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.
7. Saudi Trade Minister Usamah Bin-Ja'far al-Faqih.
8. Italian Finance Minister Augusto Fantozzi.
9. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.
10. Bulgarian Deputy Prime and Trade Minister Kiril Tsochev.
11. Greek Deputy Minister of Economy (Atolo Vutch).
12. (Sten Andersen), head of the Swedish delegation.
13. Minister of Development in Brunei Ismail (Hajji).
14. Malaysian Minister Investment Mustapha Bin Mohamed.

Jordan Seen 'Satisfied' With Summit Participation

MM3110140395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Oct 95 p 17

[Article by Salamah Ni'mat: "The Amman Summit's Implications]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is no doubt that Jordan is satisfied with the level of official Arab and international participation in the Middle East and North Africa economic summit, to be opened by the king this morning. This is due to the fact that the participation of all the Arab states (with the exception of Syria and Lebanon) not only reflects these states' preoccupation with regional economic development, but also reveals, to a large extent, the support of these states for the peace process which started in Madrid four years ago, then continued with the Palestinian agreements with Israel and the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

The Amman economic summit is the continuation of the Casablanca summit held a year ago, which was the outcome of the Arab-Israeli peace agreements. Therefore, Syria's and Lebanon's boycott of the Amman summit, despite its importance on a regional scale, has only scant political value in the light of Damascus and Beirut's announcement that they would participate in force in the Barcelona conference next month, despite Israel's participation in both conferences! And while this means that the Syrian boycott of the Amman summit, prompted by the refusal to deal with Israel, has to a large extent lost its importance in view of the decision to participate in Barcelona, Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti went even further in his attempt to lessen the importance of the Syrian boycott of the Amman summit when he said that Syrian participation in the Barcelona conference represents a greater recognition of Israel as an integral part of the region, since Barcelona will discuss a political, security, social, and humanitarian partnership between Europe and the Mediterranean basin states, in addition to economic partnership, while the Amman summit focuses on economic cooperation and does not address security and political cooperation, which represents a more significant dimension in the context of regional cooperation.

More satisfying to the Jordanians is the fact that Syria did not succeed in convincing any other Arab state, Lebanon excepted, to boycott the conference. The large Egyptian presence (seven ministers in a 150-strong delegation), the Palestinian delegation led by President Yasir 'Arafat, the participation of all the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] and Maghreb Union states, plus the strong participation of the EU states, the United States, Canada, and Japan, indicate at least the level of political support for the peace process, if not the commitment to participation in the regional economic development process.

In any case, the Amman summit and the previous one in Casablanca were held for, or rather because of, the states directly involved in the Arab-Israeli peace settlement. Syria and Lebanon may or may not participate in next year's conference, but no one will wait for anyone.

Summit Seen as Attempt To Strengthen Israel

MM3110141795 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 30 Oct 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Amman Economic Summit and Its Shortcomings"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is difficult for us to see the economic summit held in Amman in the presence of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin other than as another attempt to abolish the boycott [of Israel] and another step to speed up normalization with the Hebrew state in order to crown it as economic and political leader of the region as a whole.

The striking thing is that five major institutions will spring from this summit in which Israel will have a prominent place, most notably the "economic bank for cooperation and development in the Middle East and North Africa," whose headquarters will be in Cairo and whose aim is to reinforce the development of the public sector, support regional infrastructure projects, and set up a club to reinforce regional cooperation. As for the other institutions, they include the establishment of a regional tourism council to enhance tourism, a regional business council to reinforce cooperation among businessmen, and an executive secretariat for the economic summit, to be based in Rabat.

It seems that the Israelis prepared well to get the maximum benefit from this summit and the Arab participation in it, as they have prepared a list of joint enterprises costing $26 billion. While the list was less modest and limited only to projects costing a few billions — which reflects the Egyptian Government's insistence on continuing the cold peace with Israel and the solidarity with Syria in its boycott of the current summit and normalization steps with the Hebrew state [sentence as published].

It is still not known where the money needed to establish a development bank with a capital totaling $5 billion will come from. The Gulf states, which represent the rich side in the summit, have said that they will not participate in this bank because they are not convinced of its benefit. But we know that most of these states — by virtue of their size and links — cannot disobey a U.S. decision, if such is issued, to finance and raise the money needed in this connection.

It had been hoped that the Arab states would take a unified position opposed to the establishment of such a bank, because there is no need for it, and calling for reactivation of the existing Arab development funds. There are already seven banks which have offered loans totaling $23 billion to Arab states and institutions to finance development projects. Over the same period, that is from the sixties until the end of 1993, the Gulf states offered more than $98 billion as grants for Arab states.

The problem lies not in the establishment of development banks, but in how their loans and assistance are used to develop the region peacefully, as the money should go to fruitful projects, not into the pockets of senior officials and their sons. Some of the major Arab states receiving the aid have become poorer and are drowned in more debts than was the case 30 years before the oil leap. Egypt's example is clear in this connection.

The establishment of a development bank would surrender Arab money to the Israeli will and would make Israel a giant economic power in the region, because it would become a major and superior partner in all regional projects. That could be logical and acceptable if peace had really been achieved and if all legitimate rights had been restored to the Arab states.

What inspires concern is that these economic summits strengthen Israel and weaken the Arabs. They also give a false impression about peace and stability in the region. This is where the danger lies. If Israel really cares about the region and its economies and prosperity, it must begin to improve the conditions of its Palestinian neighbors, whose poor resources it has usurped for more than 27 years. But it is not doing that. In fact it is increasing their economic difficulties through the continued closure of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

We are in favor of delaying all kinds of cooperation until peace has been achieved. We are in favor of using the Arab boycott as a pressure card until all Arab demands for an urgent peace are met.

Inter-Arab Affairs

APFC Condemns U.S. Decision on Embassy Transfer

JN3110132295 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 31, INA—The General Secretariat of the Arab Popular Forces Conference (APFC) has strongly condemned the recent U.S. Congress bill to move the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem.

In a statement made by the APFC Secretary General Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, the pan-Arab organization said "This ferocious move by the American Congress reaffirms the animosity of the American imperialism, a staunch ally of Zionism, against the Arab people and in particular against the Palestinian people."

The statement pointed out that the U.S. Congress (the Senate and deputies) proves once more that it is Zionist more than the Israelis, ignoring the fact that this ill-fated Congressional bill violates all UN resolutions whether passed by the Security Council or by the General Assembly. These resolutions beginning with Resolution 181 (1947) and on through Resolutions 252, 253, 267, 298 and 465, are all condemning the Israeli occupation of the holy city.

The new Congressional bill, though won't be vetoed by the U.S. President Bill Clinton, yet it has much surpassed the timing of the talks on Jerusalem: a matter which will embarrass the position of the official Arab parties involved in the Israeli occupants under the auspices of the United States, the statement added.

France Rejects Participation in Mideast Bank

BR3110154995 Paris LA TRIBUNE DESFOSSES in French 31 Oct p 9

[Report by Pascal Lacorie: "Poor Start For the Middle Eastern Development Bank"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The hostage in a quarrel between Europe and the United States, the Middle Eastern Development Bank has started off very badly. U.S. Foreign Secretary Warren Christopher announced its establishment at the economic conference in Amman, Jordan, which will end today. However, French Industry Minister Yves Galland lost no time in making his position absolutely clear: "France will not participate at all in the capital of this bank," he warned. Both Germany and the oil-producing countries in the Gulf also let it be known that they did not want to become involved in the adventure.

The Europeans Fear That They Will Have To Pay

In the eyes of the United States, which is supported by Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and the Palestinians, the bank is intended to finance regional projects aimed at consolidating the peace process. "Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa have development banks. There is no reason why the Middle East should be an exception," Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres explained bitterly yesterday. The Europeans, who are extremely reluctant, have repeatedly expressed their hostility to the idea over the last few months. "Let us avoid setting up a mechanism that will only be able to intervene in the long term and which could duplicate the work of existing financial institutions," Yves Galland said. The Germans also stated, albeit in a more muted tone, that the creation of the bank was "inappropriate," while Saudi Arabia confirmed that it could not afford to participate owing to a drop in its oil revenue.

In actual fact, since the outset the Gulf states have feared that they would be called upon to provide the lion's share of the bank's capital. Another argument put forward is that the bank, which would have to operate on a purely commercial basis at market rates, will merely be able to offer credits that are too expensive for the countries in the region, with the exception of Israel, the main beneficiary of the operation.

The indictment of the bank owes something to political ulterior motives. The Europeans are afraid of once again having to "reach into their pockets," while the

United States would gain all the political and economic dividends in the region. As an alternative, Yves Galland favored the establishment of "a flexible, inexpensive body that would be called upon to identify and examine the priority programs for the region and mobilize all the aid already available that would enable them to be financed." In order to exert some pressure, the French minister warned that the Europeans could unilaterally announce the creation of such a fund at the Euro-Mediterranean conference due to be held in Barcelona at the end of November.

Nonetheless, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Israeli leaders are claiming a certain degree of confidence. According to them the bank will not become operational for another two to three years anyway. There is plenty of time between now and then to prove that the idea is viable.

Some 670 Palestinians Return to Libya

LD3110145095 Rabat MAP in English 1343 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] al-Sallum (Egypt), Oct. 31 (MAP) — About 670 Palestinians returned to Libya after they had left it following the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's decision last August to expel some 30.000 Palestinians. Security sources said Monday that [words indistinct] their expulsion,

A month ago, the Palestinians were gathered in a camp in the desert on the Libyan-Egyptian border.

The expelled Palestinians returned to Libya after al-Qadhdhafi allowed them to stay in Libya for two additional months before getting back to their homeland.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 17 Oct

NC2710163595

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 17 October edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Report Accuses Mubarak of Escalating Political Crisis
2. Ibrahim Shukri Calls For Free, Fair Elections
3. University Students Dismissed Because of Political Leanings
4. Differences Reported Between IMF, Egyptian Government
5. Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn Criticizes Government
6. MB Spokesman Accuses Government of Paralyzing Constitution

REPORT ACCUSES MUBARAK OF ESCALATING POLITICAL CRISIS

An 800-word report on pages 1 and 8 accuses President Mubarak of insisting on "escalating the political crisis" in the country by referring 30 more "popular and trade union leaders" to military courts on charges of belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood. The report notes that this "hysteric campaign against the Islamic trend" is a sign of the regime's weakness and of its fear of an election defeat. The report also notes that over 2,000 Islamist, Nasirist, and independent students demonstrated on 16 October on the Cairo University campus to denounce the arrests and the military trials.

IBRAHIM SHUKRI CALLS FOR FREE, FAIR ELECTIONS

Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri writes a 900-word article on page 1 and 8 entitled "Free Elections by Actions, not by Rosy Statements." Referring to assurances by various government officials that the upcoming People's Assembly elections will be fair and free and that the police will remain neutral, he asks: What proof is there that this will happen? He says that such statements are not "harmful" but perhaps "useful," because the voters will feel that there is hope for change by peaceful means. But, he notes, if these statements do not prove true, the consequences will be tragic. He adds that "one practical measure" to prove that the elections will be fair is "better and stronger" than any statement. Shukri says the opposition is waging three battles in these elections, not just one. The first one is the battle to convince the people to abandon their apathy brought about by the practices of the National Democratic Party and the police. The second is the battle to mobilize the people against any rigging of the elections. Third, it is waging the battle to stabilize the democratic political system.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DISMISSED BECAUSE OF POLITICAL LEANINGS

A 500-word report by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad and Khalid Yunus on page 1 and 8 says several university students have been disciplined or dismissed because of their political leanings. The al-Zaqaziq University board of directors referred three students to a disciplinary board, investigated 12 students, and dismissed five students. The Bani Suwayf University dismissed three students and investigated three others.

DIFFERENCES REPORTED BETWEEN IMF, EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT

A 200-word report by Mahmud Bakri on page 1 and 8 says the IMF has refused to further discuss with the Egyptian Government the canceling of the last of Egypt's debts unless the Egyptian Government agrees to all its demands. Talks held recently in Washington between IMF officials and an Egyptian delegation led by Dr. Kamal a-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister, showed that differences remain over the IMF demand that Egypt devalue its currency. The Egyptian delegation promised not to fix the exchange rate of the Egyptian pound and to let it float according to supply and demand.

CHIEF EDITOR MAJDI AHMAD HUSAYN CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT

Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn writes a 3,000-word article on page 2 entitled "The Country's Rulers and the 'Chamber Pot' Policy." He says: "We on AL-SHA'B thought of launching a campaign to explain global scientific, economic, and technological progress to help our society—rulers and subjects—realize the gravity of our failure to catch up with the age." He adds that this campaign could have been beneficial during the current election period "but the authorities' ferocious onslaught on the Islamist Alliance candidates leaves no margin for such luxury."

Husayn says the plight of the Egyptian citizen resembles that of an ambitious student who wants to obtain a doctorate and improve his standard of living or who dreams of a plan to serve his homeland but who suddenly finds himself detained in a cell where his "greatest ambition" is to receive a "chamber pot" from the prison administration each evening. He adds that instead of the nation searching for a plan to catch up with Israeli progress in space satellites and rockets, the slogan has become a "chamber pot" for every citizen. Instead of preoccupying ourselves with developing the democratic experiment, he says, our only ambition now is to "stop the torture of citizens" in prisons.

Husayn says the "chamber pot" saga continues. He asserts: The opposition leaders ask for safeguards for the elections and demand a suspension of the emergency law. He adds: The government resorts to military trials and everybody forgets the original demands and calls for halting the military trials. When the government arrests "our candidate 'Abd-al-Rahman Lutfi our program is narrowed down to demanding that he be given an injection to treat his colic." "Thus priorities change—from safeguards for the elections to safeguards for the kidneys of the detainees."

Husayn says that because human life and dignity are important "they require a lot of our time." He goes on: "When candidates face the danger of death our program becomes one of demanding that they leave us alive and that they always rule until God takes them." Husayn says a ruler who harasses his people until their only wish in prison becomes to obtain a "chamber pot" is a weak ruler. He says: The regime that tries civilians before military courts and arrests candidates at the start of an election campaign is a weak regime. He suggests: If it has support, popular support, it will not resort to these abnormal methods in a state the constitution of which provides for a multiparty system.

Concluding, Husayn urges: "Let us act together and throw the chamber pot in their faces." "Let us open the big cell, smash its iron bars, and destroy its cement walls, the walls of the cell that contains 60 million Egyptians."

MB SPOKESMAN ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF PARALYZING CONSTITUTION

Muhammad Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, deputy general guide and official spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood [MB], writes a 1,500-word article on page 5 entitled "The Government or the MB." He says that despite the people's bitter experience with the National Democratic Party [NDP] government, a section of the population still entertains the hope that the government will adopt a new course in the People's Assembly elections, a course that will allow freedoms, provide security for all the candidates, and pursue a civilized dialogue between the government and all parties and forces. He adds that the People's Assembly elections are a "good opportunity" for the government to settle the issue of the MB's acceptance by the people, who are "the source of all authority." Unfortunately, the government has chosen a different course. Since the beginning of this year the government has begun a campaign of arrests against MB members to prevent them from contesting the elections and consequently to prevent the people from passing judgment on the "moderate Islamist trend," which advocates dialogue and democratic methods.

Al-Hudaybi says the government has not contented itself with arresting MB members to prevent them from contesting the elections; it has also referred them to military tribunals and staged new arrests. The government has turned a deaf ear to all the calls by all the parties and forces for the release of the detainees. And the government has launched a campaign of slander against the MB through the official media, including the government-owned newspapers.

Al-Hudaybi says the MB calls for implementing Islamic shari'ah and for enlisting this in the Constitution. But the government accuses the MB of extremism, backwardness, and of living in the past. It also accuses the MB of supporting "violence and terrorism." Indeed, he says, the MB calls for "freedom for all— freedom of opinion, expression, and criticism and freedom to issue newspapers and form parties." He accuses the government of "divesting the Constitution of its meaning" and of "usurping the rights, safeguards, and freedoms" stipulated in the Constitution through a series of "abnormal laws," such as the emergency law, the antiterrorism law, the parties law, and the press law.

Al-Hudaybi says the MB supports a multiparty system in its correct form and the alternation of power in a correct and real way as stipulated in the Constitution. The MB supports democracy, which means "the people's right to choose their representatives," and to call government officials to account. Democracy also means the individual's right to justice, security, and fairness and his right to form a party and issue a newspaper. But through its "abnormal" laws and policies the government has paralyzed the Constitution and made a mockery of the multiparty system. It has locked up innocent people behind bars and referred them to military courts. It has accused the MB of obstructing the Constitution while in fact it has paralyzed the Constitution, rendering it a heap of papers without any content.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 20 Oct

NC2810102095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 20 October edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. University Students Protest Brothers Trial by Military Courts
2. Al-Azhar Devises 'Integrated' Islamic Constitution
3. Company To Lay Gas Pipeline to Tel Aviv Sanctioned
4. University Staff Protest Teachers' Referral to Military Courts
5. Amnesty International Report on Detainees' Deaths Cited
6. Israeli Paper to Amman Economic Conference Reported
7. Writer Denounces Emergency, Martial Laws
8. Columnist Protests Chief Editor's Trial, Press Law
9. Suspected Egyptian Brotherhood Members Arrested in Saudi Arabia
10. Female Students in Bani Suwayf Ordered To Remove Veils
11. Islamist Students' Names Scrapped From Election Lists
12. Hamas Spokesman Views Ties With Palestinian Authority

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS PROTEST BROTHERS TRIAL BY MILITARY COURTS

Two separate reports on pages 1 and 3 totaling 1,550 words, compiled by Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid, detail student demonstrations denouncing military tribunals.

The first report says over 10,000 students took part in a "huge" demonstration last Tuesday [17 October] at Cairo University, denouncing university guards' interference in university affairs and denouncing the Muslim Brothers' trial before military courts. The report adds that the demonstrators went outside the campus but were later returned after police intervention. A student conference was held in which the students asserted their insistence on rejecting the government's "provocations" in and outside the university, the report goes on.

The report claims: There have been arbitrary measures against students at Hulwan University, as university guards were reluctant to admit veiled female students onto the campus. This is despite a decree by the Administrative Judiciary Court on 17 October 1995 annulling the Hulwan University president's decision, which banned them from entering the university, the report adds.

Five students at the Commerce College were referred for investigation on charges of reading the Koran and calling for prayers at the college. The report says the five students were dismissed for two weeks at the beginning of the school year for the same reason.

The report notes that the Trade Unions Coordination Committee issued a statement denouncing the referral of a large number of union leaders to the military court. The committee warned against destroying the "remaining small margin of democracy" and called for stopping the government's "violation of public freedoms."

The second report says Cairo University was "last Monday and Tuesday" [16, 17 October] the scene of large demonstrations in which thousands of students took part. The demonstrators roamed the university premises and surrounding streets "denouncing the authority's repression of its opponents." The report says the students denounced the government's recent "autocratic" laws, primarily Law No. 93 of 1995, dubbed the law of press assassination. The students called for revoking the military trial of civilians, especially the trial of the Muslim Brothers, and called for rescinding the "suspect" press law. The report notes that the demonstrations were organized by "Islamic action students and members of the Islamic trend."

The report cites recommendations passed by a conference held by the students. Among other recommendations, the students called for "not standing silent over the blood of our martyred prisoners in the 1956 and 1967 wars." They also called for "opening the door to jihad to liberate the al-Aqsa Mosque from the Zionists" and for the immediate release of the Muslim Brotherhood members referred to military tribunal "or at least their referral to civilian judiciary."

The report concludes by saying that the crisis at Cairo University "is still blazing and is expected to intensify in the coming days as student elections take place."

AL-AZHAR DEVISES 'INTEGRATED' ISLAMIC CONSTITUTION

A 330-word report on pages 1 and 8 by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad says: "The holy al-Azhar has devised the first integrated Islamic constitution. The Islamic constitution's provisions have been derived from various Islamic faiths and jurisprudence views and its articles cover all the needs of Muslims."

The report adds that the al-Azhar constitution contains nine chapters and 93 articles on the Islamic nation's identity, bases of Islamic society, Islamic economics, individual rights and freedoms, the imam and his responsibilities, the judiciary, the shura, supervision, legislation, government, and general and "transitional" laws.

The report says al-Azhar's shaykh formed a higher committee made up of "an elite of senior Islamic personalities concerned with Islamic jurisprudence and constitutional law" and members of the Constitutional Research Committee of the Islamic Research Commission to draft the first integrated Islamic constitution to be available to any country wishing to adopt Islamic shari'ah "as a way of life."

The constitution asserts that Islamic shari'ah is the source of all legislation and obliges the people to watch the head of state and his aides and to "bring them to account according to the provisions of Islamic law." The constitution stipulates that freedom of religious and ideological beliefs, the freedom to work and establish associations and unions, personal freedom, and freedom of movement and association are all "basic natural rights guaranteed by the state within the bounds of Islamic shari'ah." The constitution imposes a complete ban on spying against homes, correspondence, and citizens' private affairs. It also stipulates that torturing people is a crime. The constitution's provisions allow the people to unseat the head of state if he deviates from Islamic shari'ah.

COMPANY TO LAY GAS PIPELINE TO TEL AVIV SANCTIONED

A front page, 100-word report by 'Adil al-Bahnasawi says Israel has protested the price set by the Egyptian Oil Ministry for the sale of Egyptian natural gas. The report adds that through the continuous contacts between the two sides, the "Zionist government" asked for a price lower than world prices and "threatened to resort to the State of Qatar to import gas."

The Oil Ministry, the report says, has not responded to the Israeli request and has insisted on negotiating prices set by the European Union. An Oil Ministry delegation has visited Jordan to discuss the needs of Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

The report says the Investment Board has sanctioned a joint company founded to lay a pipeline linking Bur Fu'ad, Tel Aviv, and Gaza for the export of gas.

UNIVERSITY STAFF PROTEST TEACHERS' REFERRAL TO MILITARY COURTS

An unattributed 250-word report on pages 1 and 8 says the al- Sharqiyah governor has issued a decree dissolving the "legitimate" board of directors of the club of the teaching staff of al-Zaqaziq University and replacing it with a governmental board of directors.

The report adds that over 450 members of the university teaching staff held a "heated" conference at the medical professions club denouncing the security forces' "seizure" of the club. They decided to file a suit against the governor's decree and denounced the referral of "some" university leaders and professors to military tribunals.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT ON DETAINEES' DEATHS CITED

Page 2 carries "the latest" report by Amnesty International on the deaths of detainees in Egyptian jails. The approximately 1,800- word report says: "Amnesty International last week issued a report on the rising number of deaths among Islamist detainees in Egyptian prisons, revealing the Interior Ministry's responsibility for this growing, dreadful phenomenon." The paper adds that the report referred to the deaths of 26 detainees from January-September 1995 and that most of them died in the al-Wadi al-Jadid Prison in the Western Desert. The report adds that most of the dead prisoners had been detained for many years without charge or trial.

ISRAELI PAPER TO AMMAN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE REPORTED

In an approximately 1,600-word unattributed report on page 2 the paper claims it has obtained the "text" of Israel's paper to be submitted to the Amman economic conference.

The report, headlined "The Zionist Enemy Seeks To Dominate Water, Electricity, Oil Resources, and Media," says the paper is "full of arrogance and temptation and openly calls for destroying the Islamic trend in the region, a trend it calls fundamentalism, so that the peace process may proceed safely and amity and economic cooperation prevail."

WRITER DENOUNCES EMERGENCY, MARTIAL LAWS

An 850-word article on page 4 by Dr. al-Shafi'i criticizes the government's emergency and martial laws. The writer says Egypt signed and endorsed the international convention of civilian and political rights in 1981, rejecting the application of martial law, President Mubarak, he adds, relied on this law in referring civilians to military tribunals.

He notes that international justice standards and the permanent constitution reject applying martial law to civilians. Yet, he continues, President Mubarak relied on martial law in referring the Muslim Brothers to the military judiciary. He says: "The presidential institution has increased hatred for the emergency law, which has been considered a de facto constitution for the president's rule for 14 years."

COLUMNIST PROTESTS CHIEF EDITOR'S TRIAL, PRESS LAW

A 300-word article on the same page by Mahmud Bakri discusses the trial of AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Husayn, due to take place on 12 November. The writer says the chief editor's referral to trial came under the "odious" press law No. 93 of 1995, which has been censured by "all the nation's leading figures and intellectuals" and was supported by only a minority of "those schemers who took up the profession of licking up to the sultan's court."

This rejected policy, he says, means the authorities are fed up with the little democracy that is available in the country and have decided to destroy the remainder of that democracy by putting leading intellectuals behind bars under that unjust law.

The writer adds: "The government might imagine that by adopting this policy it suppresses mouths and spreads terror among its opponents, but a free word cannot be imprisoned by thousands of barriers." He says the government is required to "stop the policy of oppression and tyranny" and adds that the government pledged not to implement Law No. 93. Instead, he says, it unleashed it to "kill off the chief editor of the strongest opposition newspaper in the country."

SUSPECTED EGYPTIAN BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS ARRESTED IN SAUDI ARABIA

An unattributed 55-word report on page 8 says: "The Saudi detective forces have attacked the homes of 25 Egyptians in Mecca and preparations are now under way to deport them to Cairo."

The report, headlined "The Arrest of 25 Egyptians in Saudi Arabia on charges of Affiliation With the Brothers," adds that the Saudi forces searched the Egyptians' homes there and confiscated their books and recordings.

Saudi security officials, the report says, claimed the Egyptians were arrested because they belong to the Muslim Brotherhood and said that the Saudi forces will carry out further raids on the homes of other Egyptians soon.

FEMALE STUDENTS IN BANI SUWAYF ORDERED TO REMOVE VEILS

Page 8 runs a 200-word report compiled by Qutb al-'Arabi under the heading "The Education Directorate in Bani Suwayf Orders the Removal of Female Students' Veils."

The report says: "Continuing the ruling National Democratic Party's policies on combating the manifestations of Islamic duty, the Education Directorate in Bani Suwayf has ordered governorate schools to remove female students' veils." The report adds that the Islamic Call School was among other schools that received this warning.

ISLAMIST STUDENTS' NAMES SCRAPPED FROM ELECTION LISTS

A 120-word report on the same page by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad says the dean of the Higher Institute for Social Service in Madinat Nasr has omitted the names of over 50 student candidates, including 30 Islamist candidates, in the student elections.

The report adds that the dean threatened the "Islamic trend" students with arrest and threatened other students with dismissal if they fail to file reports about Islamist students in the institute. Meanwhile, the report continues, the Islamist students filed a suit with the Administrative Judiciary Court protesting their not being nominated in the elections.

HAMAS SPOKESMAN VIEWS TIES WITH PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

Page 9 of AL-SHA'B features an approximately 750-word report by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah on mediation efforts between the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, the PA.

The report includes "exclusive" statements to AL-SHA'B by engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman of Hamas.

Ghawshah says a Hamas delegation that traveled to Sudan had received an invitation from Dr. al-Turabi. An invitation was also extended to the PA to go to Khartoum and "engage in a reconciliation dialogue with Hamas leaders." He adds that the PA has not clarified its response to the invitation and therefore it is premature to talk of an agreement, because the dialogue has not yet begun.

He comments on talk of a rift within Hamas over the dialogue and on reports that some people are calling for a halt to Hamas' operations. He says Hamas has a unified stance and there is no division. He states that one man is advocating this situation—PA official al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, "who is a member of a trend within the PA that does not believe in and does not want a dialogue with Hamas and seeks to curtail Hamas using every possible means."

He adds that Hamas' stance calls for not taking part in the government or elections and, in turn, the parliamentary council, which will comprise 82 members. The reason, he says, is because the elections come in implementation of the Oslo accords, which Hamas rejects. He adds: "Moreover, the elections, in Hamas' estimation, will forge the Palestinian people's will, because they will be held under the domination of the Zionist occupation." He says the elected members will refer to the "Zionist occupation" in their decisions and that they will not represent the entire Palestinian people, one third of whom are living outside the occupied territories.

Ghawshah says the PA still holds 100 Islamists, freeing only Shaykh al-Zahhar and Shaykh Bahr. The report cites Ghawshah as saying that Hamas will not drop its demand for the trial of those who tortured the detainees and flogged and cut the hair and beards of Hamas leaders in jails. That said, he goes on, "the atmosphere of dialogue in Khartoum will be unfavorable and unsound."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 22 Oct

NC2810122395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 22 October edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Muslim Brotherhood Figures To Contest Elections From 'Behind Bars'
2. Journalist Arrested, Referred to Military Prosecutor
3. Working Group Condemns AL-SHA'B Chief Editor's Trial
4. 'Political Violence' Kills 339, Wounds 190 in 15 Months
5. Dissent Reported Within Ruling Party
6. Regime Conduct Attributed to 'International Conspiracy'
7. Harassment of Opposition Candidates, Supporters Continues
8. Government Shortens Opposition's Campaigning Time
9. Security Force Storms Muslim Brothers Homes

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD FIGURES TO CONTEST ELECTIONS FROM 'BEHIND BARS'

A 500-word report by 'Imad Mahjub on page 1 says that "16 leading figures" implicated in Muslim Brotherhood cases have decided to contest the People's Assembly elections in response to the "unlimited sympathy the masses have shown toward the detainees in their constituencies."

The 16 detainees submitted official applications to the prison authority, requesting powers of attorney for their lawyers to represent them in the electoral process, the report says.

JOURNALIST ARRESTED, REFERRED TO MILITARY PROSECUTOR

An unattributed 200-word report on page 1 says that journalist Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud, a member of the Press Association Council, was arrested at Cairo Airport en route to Turkey on "a press mission."

According to the report, 'Abd-al-Maqsud "was referred to the military prosecutor for interrogation" although he was not included in the "Republican decree" that referred Muslim Brotherhood cases to military tribunals.

The report adds that the "freedoms committee" of the Press Association has issued a statement condemning the arrest and voicing support for the Association in "whatever decisions it will make."

WORKING GROUP CONDEMNS AL-SHA'B CHIEF EDITOR'S TRIAL

An unattributed 50-word report on page 1 says that "the Egyptian Working Group—an opposition group operating from London—has condemned the referral to the judiciary of AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Husayn." The group said in a statement that "the regime" resorted to this trial in spite of its earlier pledge not to apply the new press law.

The group appealed to all the "liberals to raise their voices in defense of principles, freedom, honor, and dignity."

'POLITICAL VIOLENCE' KILLS 339, WOUNDS 190 IN 15 MONTHS

A 300-word report by Mu'tazz al-Hadidi on page 1 says that "the toll of political violence between the government and the Islamic groups in the governorates of Upper Egypt has reached 339 dead and 190 injured in the past 15 months." Among these, 95 were from the police, 90 were civilians, and 155 belonged to groups, the report adds.

Furthermore, the report notes that police deaths "dropped" in the past few months after the introduction of "new methods" and the arrival of a "large number of armored vehicles in Mallawi."

The report adds that the police arrested 50 civilians following an incident last week in which three soldiers were killed and 12 were wounded.

The report says that the "commander of maximum security in al- Minya Security Directorate was suspended in connection with the disappearance of ammunition from the directorate's warehouse."

DISSENT REPORTED WITHIN RULING PARTY

An unattributed 600-word report on page 1 cites "a security report prepared by a state apparatus" as saying that "some 1,315 National Democratic Party, NDP, members have decided to break away from the party and run independently or with other parties to protest their being ignored by the NDP."

According to the report, 56 of these are deputies in the current People's Assembly and they plan to resign from the NDP and contest the elections "in coordination with opposition candidates to defeat the government's candidates, particularly in Upper Egypt."

The report points out that "the NDP youth leaders in Cairo said that they will seek ways to best express the masses' resentment, particularly since the NDP list of candidates includes dangerous examples of drug dealers and other crooks."

REGIME CONDUCT ATTRIBUTED TO 'INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY'

A 600-word article by Muhammad al-Murshidi on page 2 relates how 'Abd-al-Majid al-Dib was arrested "at dawn" on 6 October for being nominated as "a Labor Party candidate for the People's Assembly."

Al-Murshidi discusses al-Dib's "national activity against corruption in the Kawm Hamadah municipal council" and "the medical convoys" he organized to tour the villages and treat the people "free of charge."

He explains that he writes about al-Dib to show "the serious policy with which the regime involved itself in sheer stupidity" when it made "the peaceful, nationalist, and upright youth" a cause for anger and the "drug and rotten food dealers, hypocrites, and opportunists the favorite candidates."

The writer then moves on to "the international conspiracy against Egypt, the conspiracy that pushes it toward clashing with Sudan to create perpetual hostility between the two and squander Egypt's resources in Sudan's wilderness and forests so that America and Israel can guarantee that Egypt will stay out of the circuit of power and influence in its Arab world for good."

He sees it as "obvious that America and Israel have devised an integrated strategy to dominate the Arab and Muslim world, deplete its resources, and destroy the regimes that resist this domination."

He says also that "the American-Zionist scheme" has succeeded in convincing "our naive regime" that the Islamic revival poses a threat to it, making it decide to uproot the Islamic stream, "both its extremists and moderates." The writer goes on: "The devils have convinced it that Islamic rule in a neighboring state poses a threat to Egypt." This made the regime coordinate with "Tunisia's butcher and Algeria's generals" and urge Zeroual to "keep up the policy of amputation" instead of dialogue and conciliation, the writer concludes.

HARASSMENT OF OPPOSITION CANDIDATES, SUPPORTERS CONTINUES

An unattributed 60-word report on page 1 "confirms" that Dr. Yusuf Wali's rival in Ibshawai was arrested for three days and that "he is still being summoned every now and then by the State Security detectives."

A 400-word report within the "Newsreel" column on page 6 says that two of the supporters of the Labor Party candidate in Dokki were arrested as they were distributing the candidate's manifesto.

A 50-word report in the "newsreel" column on page 7 says that Shaykh Jamal 'Abd-al-Jawad Imam, "a prominent supporter of AL-AHRAR Chief Editor Mustafa Bakri," was prevented from giving the Friday sermon in al-Tibbin.

And a 60-word report in the same page 7 column talks of "an odd phenomenon" in Damietta, where candidates are said to tend to hire "hooligans" to support and protect them during campaigning in return for 40 pounds per day. According to the report, "some hooligans are hired with their dogs to further terrorize rival candidates."

GOVERNMENT SHORTENS OPPOSITION'S CAMPAIGNING TIME

An unattributed 200-word commentary on the first page says that "the National Democratic Party government, in a move not seen in parliamentary elections in Egypt, deferred the date for accepting candidacy applications more than once in an attempt to shorten campaigning time for the opposition candidates, particularly those representing the Islamic alliance."

The commentary notes that while the ruling party candidates "have access to all the media," campaigning time for the opposition will be "limited to 10 days."

SECURITY FORCE STORMS MUSLIM BROTHERS' HOMES

A 30-word report by an "AL-SHA'B correspondent in Bani Suwayf" on page 1 says that "a force of State Security Detectives stormed the homes of and arrested six members of the Muslim Brotherhood yesterday." According to the report, the force confiscated their papers and business publications and closed one of their companies.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 24 Oct

NC0111105395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 24 October edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Labor Party Leader Urges Action to Face 'Conspiracy' Against Jerusalem
2. Labor Party Official Stresses Cooperation With Muslim Brothers
3. Mashhur Defends Brothers, Criticizes Arrests, Trials
4. Organizations Protest Arrest of Journalist
5. Australian Ambassador Cited on French Nuclear Tests
6. Writer Faults Europe's stand on Bosnian Muslims
7. Jordanian King's Pro-Israeli Stance Criticized

LABOR PARTY LEADER URGES ACTION TO FACE 'CONSPIRACY' AGAINST JERUSALEM

Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri writes a 1,200-word article on pages 1 and 8 urging action toward Jerusalem.

In the article, entitled "Let All Ranks Unite to Face the Conspiracy Against Jerusalem," he says the current election campaign must not turn our attention away from "major Islamic and pan-Arab issues." Referring to U.S. Republican Senator Bob Dole's bill to transfer the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, he says: "Our main concern is what we should do about Jerusalem. He asks: "What should we all do to stop this serious conspiracy against the third holy mosque? What should we do while all circumstances under the new world order show that no one is on our side and that what the United States intends to do may be pushed through? Do we keep silent or act slowly? Do we act individually on the pretext of our differences and divisions over this and that issue? Should the election campaign preoccupy us from confronting this serious move? If the bill is passed by the United States, many countries will rush in the same direction which will make our task and that of our future generations in defending Jerusalem more complex and difficult."

He says Jerusalem is a crucial issue and that if the Palestinian issue is the core of the Middle East problem, Jerusalem is the core of "all Arab and Islamic causes." He adds that Jerusalem is the Arabs and Muslims' primary cause "everywhere and at all times."

The issue, he goes on, concerns not only the Arabs—Muslims and Christians—but all Islamic countries and Islamic world minorities.

He says: "From here, the heart of Cairo, the home to holy al- Azhar, the defender of true Islam, I address all Arab and Islamic nations and governments, all Islamic and Christian religious organizations, and every Muslim and Christian individual in Egypt, Arab and Islamic countries, and throughout the world. Stand up all to defend Jerusalem and do not rely on this or that country. This is our cause not theirs; moreover, it is the issue that separates our religious and political stands and the stands of the West, the United States, Russia, and others."

He adds: "If we do not act, no one will. If they do not sense a genuine threat, they will not back down. If the Arabs and Muslims do not unite over the issue, we will not be able to halt this serious move." He calls on the governments of Egypt and all Arab and Islamic countries to convene "an urgent Islamic summit" to discuss the status of Jerusalem. He calls on the Islamic World League to "act immediately" in response to the U.S. decision and urges the Jerusalem Committee to hold an urgent meeting to discuss the matter and "inform the U.S. Administration of the serious situation if this conspiratorial bill is passed." He also calls on parties, all trade unions, all Islamic and Christian religious organizations, al-Azhar's shaykh, and Coptic Pope Shinudah to "act immediately to stop the conspiracy."

He urges popular meetings and political statements asking the U.S. Government to call off the decision. He also urges Egyptian parties and organizations to meet with the U.S. ambassador in Cairo and the ambassadors of the Security Council member states to tell them that the bill will not be pushed through. He says the Egyptian parties and organizations should also tell the ambassadors that if the "menial U.S. decision is passed, we will appeal to the Egyptian and Arab and Islamic nations to act immediately against U.S. interests in the region and worldwide."

Toward the end of his article, Shukri says: "We will not accept the policy of imposing a de facto situation and will not be intimidated by U.S. domination of the world. No bargaining over Jerusalem, no bargaining. If the Americans pass this law, they will have declared an open war on Arabs and Muslims worldwide. We will not keep silent."

LABOR PARTY OFFICIAL STRESSES COOPERATION WITH MUSLIM BROTHERS

In an approximately 750-word article on page 2, labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn criticizes the way AL-AHALI newspaper published an interview with him on relations with the Muslim Brotherhood. He says: "If the purpose of the title itself is to create a rift between the Labor Party and the Brothers, then the attempt is naive and exposed. Let it be known to everybody that we have cooperated and will cooperate in future, God willing, with the Brothers and all democratic Islamic forces to implement the shari'ah. He adds: "The forms of cooperation may vary, but the principle of cooperation will remain and we will all stick to it. I said this in the published interview although the headline was deceiving."

MASHHUR DEFENDS BROTHERS, CRITICIZES ARRESTS, TRIALS

Renounced Muslim Brotherhood member Mustafa Mashhur writes an approximately 1,400-word article on the same page defending Muslim Brothers and decrying government's measures against them.

He says the Muslim Brothers began reforming themselves by adhering to religion's teachings. He adds that they are trying to demonstrate this reform "practically" within the means available to them through certain organizations, such as trade unions, teaching staff clubs of universities, student unions, local councils, schools, hospitals, and other institutions.

He says: "I believe that all the Brothers are proud of their cherished country Egypt, that they are eager to achieve everything good for Egypt, and that they value Egypt's standing in the Islamic arena and its bright history of jihad against Islam's enemies, and holy al-Azhar's position and important task for Islam in Egypt and other countries." No Muslim Brotherhood member has harmed or will he harm Egypt, rather they support its strength and independence and are for reforming all its affairs."

He adds that the brothers have adhered to their "comprehensive Islamic approach and their moderate policy far removed from violence and extremism." He goes on to say that the Brothers call on everyone, be they the rulers or the governed, to apply "God's shari'ah which is the ideal and sole solution to all problems and crises from which our country has been suffering." Especially, he says, after the "British occupation, which removed shari'ah from the government, spread corruption and abominable behavior, such as drinking, gambling, usury, and decadence."

He remarks: "Regrettably, after the British left, no government repaired this disorder even though the Islamic shari'ah is the main source of legislation as stipulated in the constitution. Had any ruler implemented God's shari'ah, the Brothers and all the people would have backed him and been soldiers for him."

Referring to the Interior Minister's remarks in AL-AHRAM on 14 April 1994 that the Muslim Brothers do not commit acts of violence unlike terrorist organizations, the writer asks what has changed so that "false charges" are leveled at the Brothers and the Brothers are arrested and tried at military courts.

He adds: "Obviously the motive is to prevent the Brothers from entering the People's assembly while we read numerous statements that the elections will be fair and under the judiciary's supervision and that the government will not interfere. These measures fully contradict the statements. These arrests and military tribunals are the very interference not to forge the elections but to prevent the Brothers from candidacy because they are chaste people."

He says that the government's material strength might tempt them and make them imagine that they are able to defeat the Brothers who have no weapons or power, "except the power of faith which is the best weapon."

ORGANIZATIONS PROTEST ARREST OF JOURNALIST

A 1,100-word, unattributed report on page 8 says the Journalists Association Council [JAC] convened on 21 October and "strongly protested" the referral of "colleague" Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud to the military judiciary.

The report adds that the Egyptian Human Rights Organization "expressed its deep concern at the arrest of JAC member Salah 'Abd- al-Maqsud and his referral to the military prosecution in connection with case no. 11 for 1995 involving '16 other Muslim Brotherhood suspects.'" The Human Rights Organization "denounces" the measures against 'Abd-al-Maqsud and appeals to the president to use his powers to halt these measures.

Page 9 runs an approximately 700-word interview with the Australian ambassador in Cairo conducted by Dawud Hasan in which the ambassador discusses various issues, including reaction to French nuclear tests, Arab expatriates in Australia, unemployment, pollution, debts, and inflation.

Answering a question, he says Australia scaled down its defense ties with France and sent delegates to Paris to convince it to halt nuclear tests, adding that these efforts "were fruitful to some extent."

WRITER FAULTS EUROPE'S STANCE ON BOSNIAN MUSLIMS

Muhammad al-Ghazali writes a 350-word comment on page 12 about the Muslims' situation in various regions.

Turning to the conflict in Bosnia, he says Europe has armed the Serbian "tribe" with the "deadliest weapons" and left them to fight against the Bosnian Muslims to "inherit their land and erase their country" after obtaining a Security Council resolution banning weapons to the Muslims.

He says Europe left the Muslims unarmed, fighting tanks and aircraft, adding that many years have passed since this "unequal" fight began, yet the Muslims fight desperately and call for help.

JORDANIAN KING'S PRO-ISRAELI STANCE CRITICIZED

A 1,000-word report on page 12, entitled "An Arab Face for a Zionist Media Institution," filed by al-Sayyid al-Ghadban, assails King Husayn of Jordan for his ties with Israel.

The report says: "His Majesty King Husayn and his crown prince are exerting exceptional efforts to make Jordan an Israeli bridgehead by which Israel will realize its dreams to dominate the Arab world."

The report adds that for the sake of Israel, the king attacked trade unions that rejected normalization with Israel. Against the will of its people, the author says, Jordan has become the favorite place for Rabin and Peres.

He adds that the king has decided to openly side with Israel in the face of any potential Arab coordination at the Amman economic summit. He says the king and his crown prince received Peres and other Israeli ministers to "draw up detailed plans" for joint Israeli-Jordanian projects. Despite Arab League resolutions calling for coordination, the author says, his majesty the king decided to become Israel's partner against the rest of the Arab countries.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 24 Oct

NC3110075195

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 24 October edition of the Arabic language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Al-Azhar Denies Formulating Islamic Constitution
2. Bombing of Saudi Mosque Condemned
3. Writer Berates Veteran Deputies for Failing To Keep Promises
4. Sex Rejected as Tool of Tourism Publicity
5. Ulema Discuss Banking, Sorcery, Women's Issues
6. Academic Denies Religion-Terrorism Link
7. Australia's Muslim Community Succeeds in Banning Writer's Visit
8. Million-Man March Described as Prelude to U.S. Collapse

AL-AZHAR DENIES FORMULATING ISLAMIC CONSTITUTION

This issue's lead story pertains to a denial by the al-Azhar institution that it is devising an integrated Islamic constitution, as reported by the newspaper AL-SHA'B in its 20 October issue and included in Political Islam Review No. 296.

The main part of the 'AQIDATI contribution is an unattributed 250-word report on page 2 but the paper also publishes a brief, unattributed, report on page 1 of the same issue under a banner headline in red declaring: "The Integrated Islamic Constitution... A Lie." This is followed by a smaller headline in green: "What AL-SHA'B Published Is Totally Untrue."

'AQIDATI quotes Shaykh Sayyid Sa'ud, deputy grand imam of al- Azhar and secretary general of the Islamic

Research Council, denying "the report published by the partisan newspaper AL-SHA'B that al- Azhar was drawing up an Islamic constitution."

Shaykh Sa'ud says al-Azhar's Islamic Research Council has no such committee as a constitutional committee. He explained that during former President Anwar al-Sadat's term of office, al-Azhar codified Islamic shari'ah rules and submitted them to the People's Assembly in the days of Speaker Sufi Abu-Talib.

The report cites the deputy imam as saying that al-Azhar's Islamic Research Council "studies and discusses all new developments and contemporary issues, both domestically and internationally, and issues statements to the public about them."

He said: "Al-Azhar stands aloof from all partisan conflicts and is an independent authority that seeks to serve Islam and the Muslims."

BOMBING OF SAUDI MOSQUE CONDEMNED

'AQIDATI publishes an unattributed 2,200-word report on page 3 citing comments by several Islamic scholars and al-Azhar academics on the bombing of a mosque in Saudi Arabia's Bishah Province on 20 October. All condemn the attack and say they regard the perpetrator as a renegade who can no longer be viewed as a Muslim, because a Muslim does not attack places of worship.

Dr. Muhammad Ra'fat 'Uthman, dean of Tanta's Shari'ah and Law College, declares: "It is my conviction that anyone who perpetrates such a crime is either a person without religion or a weak person. I doubt he can be a normal Muslim who understands the high esteem and veneration in which mosques are held. The perpetrator is devoid of any link with religion. Moreover, foreign parties inimical to Islam might be involved."

A 400-word editorial on the same page regrets the attack on the Saudi mosque and says: "Regrettably, we, the Muslims, give our enemies valuable opportunities to continue their criminal war on Islam, describing it as a religion of killing and terrorism, living by blood, and recognizing gunfire as the only language of dialogue."

The famous preacher Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi has a similar comment on the incident published in a 50-word report on page 1. Al-Sha'rawi calls for deterrents to prevent the recurrence of such attacks.

WRITER BERATES VETERAN DEPUTIES FOR FAILING TO KEEP PROMISES

In the "In Total Frankness" column on page 6, Basyuni al-Halawani advocates the election of new representatives to the People's Assembly to replace old deputies who, he says, have done little for the public, did not fulfill their promises to the voters, and sought only to enrich themselves.

In his 500-word article, al-Halawani attacks some members of the outgoing assembly who want to be reelected. He does not name names.

"Those deputies, who are eagerly seeking to remain under the People's Assembly dome, have betrayed their trust. During their tenure they had no objective but their own personal interests."

SEX REJECTED AS TOOL OF TOURISM PUBLICITY

A 500-word article by Majdi Salim on page 10 says that sex should not be used as a method of encouraging tourism. Noting that those who come to Egypt want to visit its great historical sites, he says the country can have a good tourism business without allowing the consumption of alcoholic beverages, gambling, or sex.

ULEMA DISCUSS BANKING, SORCERY, WOMEN'S ISSUES

On page 8 and part of page 9 there is a 3,000-word report by Jamal Salim about the ongoing crosscountry trips carried out by a group of ulema to disseminate sound ideas about religion and to encourage proper Islamic attitudes. The group, known as "'AQIDATI's Ulema Convoy," meets with the population, usually young men, and answer their questions on various religious, social, and political matters.

This issue's report is about the convoy's visit to 'Arab al-Raml township in al-Minufiyah Governorate.

Asked about the permissibility of seeking help from sorcerers to lift spells that are cast on them, one of the ulema, Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Sami' Jad declared that sorcery is one of the major seven sins and is proscribed by shari'ah.

Asked if bank transactions are permitted in Islam, Dr. Sabri 'Abd-al-Ra'uf pointed out that the cashing of checks, withdrawals, deposits, and opening new accounts are permitted transactions. He noted that the country has established Islamic banks which do not specify the interest on loans and deposits in advance but wait until after the money is invested and brings revenue and then they set how much the interest should be. He urged the public to do business with the Islamic banks and encourage them.

Asked if Egyptian society is not properly Islamic [jahili] as some extremists assert, Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Sami' Jad replied that jahili society existed before the rise of Islam and was characterized by the worship of idols, other unpleasant features, and immoral practices. He added: "Using the phrase 'jahili society' to describe our society is a false, unjust, and inaccurate accusation. Egypt is the country of al-Azhar, the beacon of Islamic learning that beams its light to the world. Accusing Egypt of being a jahili society is unjust."

The ulema discussed other issues including permission to reduce prayer time during a long trip and if learning the Koran by heart is an obligation.

Dr. Sabri 'Abd-al-Ra'uf answered questions about women's rights. He said that al-Azhar's attitude "is an honorable one in confronting the destructive ideas calling for permissiveness that were discussed during Cairo's [UN International Conference on Population and Development] and Beijing's [UN World Conference on Women]. He warned Egyptian women not to listen to the ideas proposed during those conferences.

ACADEMIC DENIES RELIGION-TERRORISM LINK

On page 10 there is a 1,000-word report by Muhammad al-Abnudi on an interview with Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim al-Fayyumi, a professor at al-Azhar University and former secretary general of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs. Al-Fayyumi discusses a conference on dialogue among religions, notably Islam and Christianity, which he attended in Istanbul, Turkey on 4-6 October. He says that the meeting focused mainly on the feature of tolerance in these two religions and the common grounds between them including belief in God, holy scriptures, prophets, and virtue. On the connection between religion and terrorism, he says: "Religions have no connection with terrorism or international extremism. These are phenomena caused by political and other factors."

AUSTRALIA'S MUSLIM COMMUNITY SUCCEEDS IN BANNING WRITER'S VISIT

An unattributed 300-word report on page 10 says that Shaykh Taj- al-Din al-Hilali, the Muslim Mufti in Australia, and the Muslim community there urged Australian Immigration Minister Nick Bolkus to revoke an entry visa originally granted to Egyptian academic and writer Nasr Hamid Abu-Zayd. The report says the minister complied with their request.

Abu-Zayd, a professor of literature at Cairo University, was to give a lecture on Islam during his visit. He has been the subject of controversy for some time because his writings on the Koran and other religious issues are seen by some Egyptians as anti-religious. An Egyptian court recently judged him to be an apostate and ordered that he be separated from his wife.

The report says that "Zionist and Jewish organizations" in Australia invited Dr. Abu-Zayd to give a lecture "designed to distort Islam's image, offend the Koran, and make Muslims doubt their creed."

MILLION-MAN MARCH DESCRIBED AS PRELUDE TO U.S. COLLAPSE

In the "Muslims Worldwide" section on page 20, there is a 2,500- word report by Ashraf Abu-al-Hawl on the million-man march in Washington D.C. which was organized by Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam. The report draws largely on material published in the U.S. media, but also offers the analysis that the march can be seen as the "beginning of the end of the American Empire." The writer says that the end might take a long time in coming and that this depends on "the extent of the collapse of the U.S. economy."

Comparing the recent march with Martin Luther King's 1963 march, the writer says: "King's march was merely a memorial march in U.S. history. At that time it was not permitted for a march to turn into an ethnic march because the United States was facing a communist enemy and was governed by the well-liked President John Kennedy. Now, however, America's enemy lies within it and is represented by its white racism and Christian and Jewish religious fanaticism. This fanaticism hides behind color and ethnic racism because most of the blacks and Asians there are Muslims or adherents of other creeds."

The report concludes by noting that King's march was a dream but Farrakhan's march is a "nightmare."

The report is preceded by the following headlines: "The Million-Man Black March Is a Prelude to America's Collapse. Racism and Poverty Inspire Blacks To Demand an Independent State. America's Whites Will Not Allow a Black To Become President, Even if it Is Powell."

Palestinian Affairs

PNC Urges Parliaments To Denounce U.S. Vote

JN3110161495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestine National Council [PNC] urged Arab, Islamic, and friendly parliaments to denounce the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem.

In a statement, the PNC asked the Organization of Islamic Conference to move seriously and actively to protect Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian shrines. The statement strongly condemned the Congress' decision and considered it a dangerous step toward providing political legitimacy to Israel's violent actions against the Palestinians and their property in Jerusalem and its suburbs.

A statement by the Arab Parliamentary Union said the U.S. decision is a blatant provocation of the feelings of hundreds of millions of Palestinians and Christians around the world, and disregards the holy city. This increases the tension in the region, exposes the region to new chains of counterviolence, and undermines the credibility of the United States as a sponsor of the Middle East peace process and meditator in the negotiations related to this process.

It called on all Arab governments to unite their positions and take measures that guarantee the Arab nature of Jerusalem and the implementation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy concerning the city. It urged the world parliaments to declare their condemnation of this irresponsible position by the U.S. Congress.

PNC Speaker on U.S. Bill, Arab Meeting

JN3110161995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1213 GMT 31 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with PNC Speaker Salim al-Za'nun by 'Arif Salim; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Arif] Brother Abu-al-Adib [Salim al-Za'nun], besides the economic aspect, you know there are other aspects concerning our cause, especially the political aspect, which is still unsettled. For example, are there political movements concerning the hot Jerusalem issue and the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem?

[Al-Za'nun] Observers have unanimously agreed that President 'Arafat's remarks on Jerusalem at the opening session, in the presence of the Israeli leaders, were strong, expressive, and decisive. This reminds me that, on behalf of the Palestine National Council [PNC], I met with Bob Dole on 30 August. I tried to talk him into changing his opinion and explained to him the dangers of going ahead with this bill. However, it seems that those working against us are a team of the Likud. I want to note that [Likud leader] Netanyahu is now in the United States to supervise this team, which has paved the way for this recent bill.

This morning we had a meeting of the Jerusalemite associations. The meeting was attended by brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, despite his busy schedule. It was an occasion for the Jerusalemite associations deported from holy Jerusalem to Jordan to work jointly with the PNC chairmanship. We agreed to continue work after the president's departure to prepare an integrated plan. Also, the president and I agreed that the PNC will send delegations to European parliaments and to the U.S. Congress to defend the Jerusalem issue and explain the dangers of this decision on the peace process and on the respectability of the UN resolutions, including U.S.-backed Resolution 181, according to which Jerusalem must not be under anyone's sovereignty. Since the issuance of that resolution, the United States has been committed to keeping its embassy in Tel Aviv. Actually, we must support the Clinton administration's stand against the new pressures being applied to implement the Congress bill, which contravenes more than 30 UN resolutions on Jerusalem. It is internationally supposed that no country's legislative council should enact a bill or legislation that contravenes the UN resolutions. Otherwise, the world should give up the United Nations if the U.S. Congress or any other parliament can change the UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

[Salim] Brother Abu-al-Adib, a meeting was held yesterday between His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and His Majesty King Husayn. You were among those who attended the meeting. Was the Jerusalem issue raised during the meeting? What did the meeting between the two grand leaders deal with?

[Al-Za'nun] The meeting was brotherly and cordial. It reflected the intimate, close relationship between the twins Jordan and Palestine, as described by brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. The meeting dealt with many issues, but the Jerusalem issue was the main topic at the meeting. His majesty the king approved coordination between the PNC and the Jordanian Parliament in the call for an exceptional session by the Arab Parliamentary Union after a meeting is held by the Arab League Council. Therefore, the Jordanian Parliament today addressed a message to the Arab Parliamentary Union to hold a session. We also thank in advance his majesty for accepting to host this meeting in Jordan.

[Salim] At the end of this interview, thank you very much, PNC Speaker Salim al-Za'nun. We hope we will have more interviews in the future. Thank you.

[Al-Za'nun] I thank the Voice of Palestine and thank our steadfast people in the face of all closures.

Editorial: Vote 'Makes Mockery of U.S. Positions'

TA3110174495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 27 Oct 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Contemptible Move"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The whole of the Arab and Muslim world is shocked at the US Congress for driving a deep wedge between the US and the people of the Middle East. The legislation to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem undermines the credibility of the US among the Palestinians and the neutral role it has claimed for itself in the peace process. The move makes a mockery of US positions taken by previous administrations, from the Truman Administration onward. Its implications for the peace process could be far reaching: it casts doubt on the credibility of US mediation with other Arab states, particularly Syria and Lebanon.

The US Congress has suffered a lapse of memory. Its members have forgotten that the present status of Jerusalem was determined as far back as the UN Partition Plan of November 1947, and that its future status is still to be discussed. UN Resolution 181 determined the status of Jerusalem as that of a corpus separatum and it has not changed that ruling. Furthermore, the basis of the present peace process is UN Resolution 242 of November 1967. It established Arab Jerusalem as part and parcel of the occupied territories. It also established the principle of land for peace. Peace is not feasible if Arab Jerusalem is taken out of the equation. The US Government is party to an agreement which states the future of the city is to be discussed in the final settlement, in May 1996. This too is a point Congress appears to have forgotten, proving the US Government has a finer sense of the realities of the city than its Congress.

Now may be the time to remind the US Congress of how, during the Intifada, the Palestinian people refused to attend July 4 celebrations in Jerusalem because the US Consulate had not respected a clear separation between its guests from East Jerusalem and those from West Jerusalem.

The boycott stressed that the Palestinians of the city are a people apart from the Israelis, with a language, culture and history of their own. Perhaps the most serious criticism of the step taken by the US Congress is that it has denied the existence of the rights of the Palestinians to their city, along that of the Arabs and the Muslim world.

Congress has been acting as though Jerusalem were a piece of unclaimed territory for which an owner must be sought. History tells a different story, establishing an undeniable Palestinian, Arab and Islamic presence in the city over centuries. Recent developments only confirm how real that presence is. Arab Jerusalem can no longer be qualified as merely East Jerusalem, but must be perceived as part of a metropolitan area that has extended dramatically in the past decade — to the north, joining up with Ramallah; to the east, extending to Abu-Dis; to the south, linking up with Bethlehem. The population of Jerusalem has tripled since 1965. There are now over half a million Palestinians in this area, half a million people whose existence the US Congress has decided to negate.

Regardless of how US Congressmen act, they cannot change the fact that the Palestinians have legitimate rights to the city, and a history to go with it. If anyone is to protect the rights of the Palestinians in the city, it is the Palestinians who have lived here all of their lives, and their fathers and forefathers before them. It is a fact which no Congressman, fishing for votes, can change.

Sha'th Reacts to Peres' Remarks on Jerusalem

NC3110124595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 31 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, has criticized remarks by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. He said this goes beyond the limit.

Sha'th told MENA: It is regrettable that there are such calls, which run counter to the truth, international legitimacy, and the peace agreement and undermine the peace process. I reject these calls categorically, he said.

Sha'th, who is taking part in the economic summit that concludes its work here today, emphasized: "These remarks should not be made, particularly in Amman, where we are discussing cooperation and partnerships."

He added that Jerusalem was occupied in 1967, just like Nablus, Hebron, and other cities.

The Palestinian planning minister remarked that Peres' statements "violate what we agreed on in the peace accord; they do harm rather than good."

When was Jerusalem a capital for Peres?, Sha'th asked. He was responding to Peres' remark that Jerusalem has never been a capital for an Arab state or for the Palestinians.

Peres stressed in his statements that Jerusalem is a closed capital for Israel and religious sites will be open to all.

'Arafat Comments on al-Shaqaqi Assassination

JN0111083595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Oct 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat returned to the homeland this evening from the Jordanian capital, Amman, where he headed a ministerial delegation to the Amman economic summit. On his arrival at the Presidential Office in Gaza, President 'Arafat said he had held important and constructive talks with Jordan's King Husayn and a large number of delegations participating in the conference.

President 'Arafat described the Amman economic summit as positive and important. He stressed that we would see its practical results in the near future, including the establishment of a regional bank and a development bank that was proposed yesterday. The president noted that a number of projects were presented to the summit. He pointed out that like the Casablanca conference, the Amman economic conference discussed economic support for the Middle East.

Regarding the assassination of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, President 'Arafat said that we are investigating this serious crime, stressing that we will not accept it. On arrival at the Presidential Office, President 'Arafat was received by Housing Minister Zakariya al-Agha and several officials and leaders.

Says Killing Intended To Delay Redeployment

MM3110163795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Salih Qallab: "'Arafat Accuses Israeli Army Generals of Assassinating al-Shaqaqi To Obstruct Redeployment in West Bank"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has described the assassination of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement,in Valletta, Malta, last Thursday as a deliberate operation carried out by some Israeli Army generals to create a pretext for delaying the Israeli forces' redeployment in the West Bank under the second part of the Oslo agreements and in accordance with the timetable agreed at the last meeting between him and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

'Arafat expressed his belief that Dr. al-Shaqaqi was actually lured into Malta, and that Israeli military intelligence planned and implemented the operation to obstruct the redeployment process in the West Bank and to backtrack on the agreements concluded between the Palestinian National Authority and Israel following exhausting "marathon" talks.

'Arafat, who was speaking to a group of Palestinian officials in one of the guest houses in the Jordanian capital, Amman, yesterday morning, said that a secret organization in the Israeli Army sought and is seeking to thwart the peace process in coordination with extremist Jewish organizations. And that it was this organization which planned Dr. al-Shaqaqi's assassination with a view to confusing the situation and sabotaging the peace process.

The Palestinian president pointed out that those who carried out the assassination of Dr. al-Shaqaqi did so because they knew that the Islamic Jihad Movement would retaliate against Israeli targets and that this would give them the excuse to backtrack on the peace process and refrain from implementing the recent agreements between the National Authority and Israel.

Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] stressed that he personally is making tireless efforts to persuade Islamic Jihad leaders not to retaliate, and to explain to them that extremist Israeli forces are eagerly waiting for such actions in order to obstruct the Israeli Army's redeployment in the West Bank and to prevent Palestinian security forces from taking charge of the areas Israeli forces are supposed to evacuate.

Abu-'Ammar said that he has many things which he could reveal in this connection, but he will remain silent, at least for the time being, because he wants the Amman summit to succeed, "and so that no one will say that he used the al-Shaqaqi assassination case as a pretext to torpedo the conference."

Abu-'Ammar feels that the Israelis' rush to impose a siege on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip after the announcement of al-Shaqaqi's assassination, on the pretext of preventing the Islamic Jihad Movement from carrying out any revenge operations, is aimed at embarrassing him and harming the National Authority's standing while the Middle East and North Africa conference is held, especially as numerous speakers called for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

In a bid to make the United States face up to its responsibilities, Abu-'Ammar made contacts with the U.S. delegation to the Amman conference, including Secretary of State Warren Christopher, requesting that the Americans put pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to revoke the decision to impose a siege on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and to investigate the Israeli officers' procrastination and delay of the Israeli Army's redeployment in the West Bank.

Meanwhile, [Labor Party] Deputy Uri Orr said yesterday that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will today address a parliamentary committee about the elimination of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi, of which Mosad has been accused, and about its potential consequences with regard to Israel.

Aur, head of the [Knesset] Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said that Rabin will answer the questions of the committee's members in a closed 90-minute meeting.

Rabin will be accompanied by senior officials from the internal security and intelligence organs and the Army.

A Palestinian source has said that many West Bank cities witnessed a partial strike yesterday in mourning for al-Shaqaqi, who was assassinated last Thursday in Malta.

Responding to the Jihad call, shops in Hebron and Bethlehem were closed, while not all shops in Ramallah and the Gaza Strip complied with the strike. Some shops closed their doors only for an hour. Lectures were suspended in Bi'r Zayt and Bethlehem Universities to give students the opportunity to participate in the gatherings organized to mourn al-Shaqaqi's death.

Sha'th on al-Shaqaqi, Hamas Talks, Amman Summit

TA3010111295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Oct 95 p A3

[Report on interview with Nabil Sha'th, PA official in charge of international planning, by Gay Bekhor in Amman on 29 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian Authority [PA] official in charge of international planning, who is attending the Amman summit, told HA'ARETZ yesterday: "We consider the killing (of Fathi al-Shaqaqi) a political assassination and a terrorist attack which we condemn, just like the killing of any Palestinian or Israeli. We are on the way to reaching an agreement that will incorporate all the Palestinian factions, including the Islamic Jihad."

"Therefore," Sha'th explained, "despite our conflict with the Islamic Jihad, I say may God have mercy on his soul. Our people have had enough of these massacres. The killing of al-Shaqaqi, like anyone else, Israeli or Palestinian, is a crime."

[Bekhor] Will the assassination affect the negotiations between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the PA?

[Sha'th] No, it will not effect them. Such a crime will not have an effect on any PA elements. At any rate, a comprehensive (intra-Palestinian) agreement will grant protection to all Palestinians.

[Bekhor] Can you give us any details about the negotiations between the PA and Hamas?

[Sha'th] We are talking about a complete halt to violence and a commitment to participate in the elections and support the peace process.

[Bekhor] Is the Hamas leadership prepared to accept these conditions?

[Sha'th] Of course they are.

[Bekhor] What is your view of this economic summit and what is your reaction to the criticism leveled against the PA for allegedly not doing enough to promote the economic interests of the Palestinians?

[Sha'th] We are building a new economic and social culture. In the course of the past year, the first year of the PA's existence, we have started building apartments, restaurants, social institutions, schools, and more worth a total of $600 million — more than was built in the past 30 years. As for the economic conference here in Amman, there is optimism and a feeling that we must make use of the opportunities we encounter.

Jihad Official on U.S. Role in al-Shaqaqi Death

NC3110203195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Islamic Jihad leader Abu-Ahmad 'Isam by Jihad al-'Idan; place and date not given; from the "News and Reports" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-'Idan] The United States is being accused of involvement in the assassination of hero martyr Fathi al- Shaqaqi. What are the indications for and credibility of this accusation?

['Isam] We stress that the hero martyr was a chief target for the Israeli enemy. According to many reports we received, the Zionist intelligence placed him on top of its wanted list because of the heroic and martyrdom-seeking operations carried out by Islamic Jihad heroes against the Zionist enemy. As far as these reports [on U.S. involvement] are concerned, we have no concrete evidence that the U.S. Administration is involved. But, we stress that the political and moral support offered to the Zionist enemy by this arrogant administration provides the power and the political and international cover for such mean, criminal operations. A few months ago, the head of the arrogant state issued a terrorist decision against Palestinian mujahidin and leaders of mujahid factions, notably martyr Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi [reference to President Clinton's asset-freeze decision].

So, this criminal alliance between the U.S. Administration and the Israeli enemy gives this killer state a chance to move and expand in the region without punishment and without any political or ethical scruples. We are used to hearing this administration denouncing and condemning the operations of the mujahid strugglers although such operations are recognized by UN resolutions, global legitimacy, and human rights decisions. We did not hear from this arrogant administration any statement condemning the criminal assassination. On the contrary, all indications are that this administration supports the Israeli enemy in such operations. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Issues Statement on al-Shaqaqi Burial

JN3110220595 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The body of struggler martyr Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, who was assassinated by the Zionist Mosad in Malta on Thursday, 26 October 1995, arrived in Damascus at 0230 today. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Islamic Jihad in Palestine issued a statement on the refusal by the vindictive Zionism to bring the body of martyr al-Shaqaqi to Gaza to bury him in his birthplace in Gaza Strip.

The statement said the refusal of the usurper Zionist entity to bury martyr Abu-Ibrahim [al-Shaqaqi] in his homeland shows clearly that the criminal Zionist enemy continues to be the governing party in our homeland, and that any other claims are mere illusions which are marketed to the oppressed sons of our people.

The statement added that the inability of the self-rule authority to shoulder its responsibility to the citizens in Gaza Strip and the legitimate right of the martyrs to be buried in their homeland shows clearly how far this authority is incapable and how it is hostage to the Zionist decision.

We in the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine emphasize to the masses of our great people that the crimes of the criminal Zionist enemy, which show decisively the Nazism of this entity, will not pass without punishment. Tomorrow is not far for those who are waiting for it.

Al-Shaqaqi Murder Gives Radicals 'Excuse' for 'Terror'

TA0111083195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Nov 95

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Islamic sources in the territories suspect that Libya also played a role in the assassination of Fathi al-Shaqaqi. The sources note that al-Shaqaqi was suddenly summoned to Libya by al-Qadhdhafi, and he left abruptly, after quarreling with al-Qadhdhafi. Libya, the sources say, supplied him with a fake passport and was aware of his movements. Al-Qadhdhafi, who wanted to be rid of al-Shaqaqi, either had him eliminated or informed the Israeli Mosad of his movements.

Meanwhile, Colonel Muhammad Dahlan, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service in the Gaza Strip, charges Israel with responsibility for the elimination of one Mahmud Huwayjah, another Islamic Jihad activist. Speaking at a meeting on the transfer of powers held yesterday in Jerusalem, Dahlan said the collaborators who carried out the murder have been detained in Gaza. By pursuing this course of action, Israel is supplying Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad with an excuse to continue terrorist activities, he said. [passage omitted]

Dahlan stressed that the Malta murder is ruining the contacts with Hamas and Islamic Jihad and casts doubts on the Palestinian Authority's promise to bring stability to the area.

He called on the Israeli Government to lift the restrictions imposed by the security forces on the movements of territories residents which, he said, are seriously hurting the Palestinian economy.

I asked for the reaction of Major General Oren Shahor, the coordinator of government activities in the territories:

[Begin Shahor recording] There are some very good reasons for the closure on Gaza and Judaea and Samaria. We are doing what we have to do, although we are trying to ensure free trade activity. [end recording]

Security sources stress that Israel has a lot of information on concrete plans to avenge the death of al-Shaqaqi by carrying out terrorist attacks within the Green Line, and that is the reason for the restrictions on the movements of territories residents.

Paper Urges End to 'Political' Assassinations

TA0111050095 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 30 Oct 95 p 13

[Editorial: "Assassinations Will Not Solve The Problem"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The assassination of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, leader of the Islamic Jihad movement; the widespread condemnation that it aroused on the Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic levels; and the climate of tension and anticipation that it triggered reaffirm that there are people who still think with the mentality of the past — a mentality that at first glance seemed to have vanished amid the presumed climate of the peace process. Moreover, this incident affirms that there are people who still adhere to the illusion that political assassination, with all its ugliness, is a substitute for confronting the current political problem and finding a just solution for it.

Naturally, if we go back a while to review the history of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, we will discover that al-Shaqaqi's assassination is one in a long series of assassinations that have claimed many of the Palestinian people's leaders and cadres. It has been decisively proved that these assassinations have not been able to stop the movement of history and the Palestinian people's insistence on achieving their national goals. If someone believes that assassinating and eliminating more of the Palestinian people's sons are a substitute for the achievement of a just peace and for dictating what international legitimacy rejects, then he is definitely betting on an illusion, just as has been proved in the past.

What applies to the Palestinian situation also applies to the Arab and international situation, because it has been categorically proven that the method of political assassination does not constitute the solution and the alternative to facing various political crises and problems.

Certainly this assassination, with its expected consequences, cannot help to advance the peace process and is incompatible with the presumed climate for the required progress. It is also incompatible with a world that has renounced this repugnant method a long time ago. This constitutes a dangerous indication that there are people who still insist on impeding the peace process and restoring the region to the cycle of tension and bloodshed.

In sum, if assassinations only foster revenge, hatred, and violence, then it is necessary to stress that the only alternative to confronting the current political problems is to let the language of dialogue and reconciliation triumph over the logic of bullets and betrayal, and to display a readiness to advance the peace process without procrastination or delay. A comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict — at the core of which is the Palestinian problem — on the basis of international legitimacy and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people is the only guarantee for emerging from the cycle of conflict toward the horizons of a promising future. Otherwise, the language of the past, with all its brutality, will triumph and the entire region will remain a hostage of this logic. It has been proved that this logic will not bring peace, security, and prosperity to the peoples of the region.

Paper Charges Israel With 'Terrorism'

MM3110131395 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 30 Oct 95 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "Israeli Terrorism Continuing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We do not believe that Israel — whose prime minister Yitzhaq Rabin is sitting at the Amman summit, surrounded by a galaxy of Arab leaders and officials, who are offering all forms of obedience and loyalty to him as an honorable guest — has changed much since its historic dream became true, namely when it managed to extract recognition of its existence from the Arabs, who have been rushing to crown it as leader of the region as a whole, without any opposition, even formal. The only ones that have changed are its victims, when they raised the white flag and lost every desire to fight.

We know that by saying this we are singing out of tune with the flock and speaking a distinct political language. But what can we say after all these successive slaps in the Arab face, most recent of which is the assassination of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, which has contributed the strongest of pages to the Arab vocabulary of resistance through its suicide operations that have shaken Israel with their courage, accuracy, and the scale of their effects.

It has become clear that Rabin, who gave the go-ahead for this criminal act, is not interested much in the peace process' success. All he is interested in is his and his party's victory in the next parliamentary elections and in protecting his image as one of the Hebrew state's hawks, using the mask of peace to achieve all the extremists' ambitions and schemes.

Dr. al-Shaqaqi's assassination reinforces his image and expands his popularity among the Zionist right and left, just as it is reinforced by the expansion of the settlements, the building of new districts in east Jerusalem, and the decision to keep 400 fanatic Zionist settlers in the middle of Hebron, even if this leads to the collapse of the Oslo agreements and their results.

What Rabin is practicing, which is applauded by the Americans and some of Israel's new Arab friends, is state terrorism in its ugliest form, which confirms that the Israeli terrorist mentality, thirsty for Arab blood, has not changed at all. In fact the Arabs' rush to normalize with Israel has consolidated it rather than the reverse.

Dr. al-Shaqaqi's assassination is a provocation against the Palestinian opposition, inciting it to take revenge and to expand the cycle of violence so as to leave its current field in the occupied land and expand to the European and U.S. arenas, as was the case in the seventies and the eighties. The objective is to keep the terrorism accusation leveled at the Arabs alone and to freeze the current peace process, which has begun to bear fruit in terms of stability, cooperation, and coexistence in the region.

Someone advocating peace is sending death squads to assassinate his opponents in Malta, two days after the beginning of the economic summit in Amman. It is like the behavior of a gang leader, not that of the leader of a UN-recognized state aspiring to stronger relations with its Arab environment.

Perhaps Rabin has brilliantly succeeded in catching a precious prey to satisfy his bloody nature as a general, but this catch will coast him and his allies a lot, because it opens the terrorism file, which the United States and West European states have sought — with both money and efforts — to close completely. This is the first time since the assassination of 'Atif Busaysu, assistant director of Palestinian intelligence in Paris five years ago, that Rabin has sent Israel's agents to a European state to eliminate one of its opponents — a clear violation of the unwritten principle of limiting the conflict to the occupied territories.

The question is: What are President Clinton and all the European leaders going to do if Islamic Jihad elements decide to take revenge for their spiritual leader by blowing up embassies, airlines, or Israeli establishments in Europe and the United States?

Furthermore, we ask U.S. President Clinton, who during his speech on the UN 50th anniversary urged the international community to cooperate to confront terrorism, hinting at certain Arab states such as Sudan, Libya, and Syria as sponsor of it...we ask him whether he considers Dr. al-Shaqaqi's assassination an instance of the terrorism of which he spoke, or is terrorism according to his concept only the kind aimed against Europeans and Israelis, whereas if it is exercised by those parties, and the victims are Arabs, it is not terrorism, but self-defense?

We know what President Clinton's answer is. We also know full well that he will not condemn Israel, nor will he impose an air or economic blockade along the lines of the ones imposed on Iraq and Libya until they renounce terrorism completely. The United States has become the tool of Israel and its leaders. Its President does what he is told without argument.

The Israeli and U.S. slaps in the Arab face are increasing and we are accustomed to them, since there is no longer any Arab shame. If the Arabs did not make any move when Congress decided to move its country's embassy to occupied Jerusalem, on the grounds that it is the Hebrew state's unified and eternal capital, how can we expect them to make a move with regard to something else? Especially as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has rewarded Congress for its position by signing a $6-billion civilian aircraft deal and praising the United States and its support for Arab issues.

May God have mercy on Dr. al-Shaqaqi. He fell as a martyr and a mujahid while on his way back from a major fedayeen operation represented in his appeal to the Libyan authorities to suspend the expulsion of poor Palestinians from their territory, as all Arab airports and seaports have been closed to them and they are currently being tossed about amid the waves and desert storms and scorpions on the border with Egypt. Dr. al-Shaqaqi, the son of the camp of the steadfast city of Rafah, volunteered to carry out this difficult task after the PLO leaders, who limit their representation of their people to signing peace agreements and following the course of Arab capitulation and humiliation, declined to embark on it.

It is a bad Arab era by all standards, in which Arabs have been badly humiliated. It would not be a surprise if some young men resort to extremism and violence as a means of change, since things have gone beyond limits for some time and the collapse has begun.

New Islamic Jihad Leader Makes First Appearance

MS0111113695 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 1 Nov 95 p 17

[Report by Anton La Guardia: "British-Educated Leader For Jihad"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A British-educated economics lecturer, Ramadan 'Abdallah yesterday made his first appearance as the new leader of the militant Islamic Jihad movement, whose founder, Fathi al-Shiqaqi, was assassinated in Malta last week.

Mr 'Abdallah 38, was at Damascus airport with other leaders of the rejectionist Palestinian world to receive Mr al-Shaqaqi's coffin, which was unloaded from a chartered Tunisian flight draped in a Palestinian flag. Mr al-Shaqaqi is to be buried today.

Unlike his expansive predecessor, Mr 'Abdallah has so far refused to make any public statement. His office in Damascus and the group's members in the Gaza Strip even refuse to confirm basic details of his background.

"We are living in a situation of exceptional emergency. Mr al-Shaqaqi was well known. But we refuse to give personal details about the new leader for political and security reasons," said Abu Ahmad 'Isam, head of the group's foreign affairs department in Damascus.

Islamic Jihad vowed to avenge the killing, which it blamed on Israel's secret service. "This cowardly, criminal action committed by this killer and criminal state won't go unpunished. Mr 'Isam said.

From the differing accounts of his life, it seems that Mr 'Abdallah was born in 1957 in Gaza City's al-Shuja'iyah neighbourhood.

He had been a student with Mr al-Shaqaqi at al-Zaqaziq university in Egypt, where they joined Egyptian radicals in forming the Egyptian wing of Islamic Jihad, which assassinated President Sadat in 1980 after he made peace with Israel. But it is not clear whether Mr 'Abdallah was involved in the attack.

The Palestinian wing of Islamic Jihad became known in the 1980s for its attacks on Israeli targets and was among the early proponents of suicide bombings — a tactic adopted with devastating effect in the past two years to disrupt the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy talks.

He taught economics in Gaza and left in the mid-1980s, apparently taking up studies in Egypt and America. He went to Britain in 1986 and received his doctorate in economics at Durham University in 1991.

He is believed to have headed Islamic Jihad's fund-raising operations in Britain. He is also thought to have been involved in militant Islamic activities in Florida.

A father of three, he is said to have spent recent years living in Syria, which shelters several groups opposed to the peace process, and Syrian-dominated Lebanon.

Israel has not admitted assassinating Mr al-Shaqaqi, but government ministers and opposition leaders welcomed his death.

Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinian Authority, worried that revenge attacks could upset Israel's planned withdrawal from cities in the West Bank, urged Islamic Jihad to show restraint and said it would take measures to prevent attacks being staged from autonomous areas.

Palestinian police have already jailed Mr 'Abdallah brother, 'Umar, for 25 years for inciting Palestinians to commit suicide attacks against Israelis.

But as part of Mr 'Arafat's carrot-and-stick policy towards Islamic radicals, a Palestinian Authority "minister", Zakariyya al-Agha, was among the dozen people and groups who paid for newspaper advertisements expressing condolences for the death of Mr al-Shaqaqi.

Paper Profiles New Islamic Jihad Leader

TA3010144495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Oct 95 p 9

[Report by Eli Bohadana, Shefi Gabay, and Hanan Schlein]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two nights ago, before the media reported that Fathi al-Shaqaqi had been assassinated, Islamic Jihad chose a new leader: Ramadan 'Abdallah Shalah.

Shalah, one of the founders of Islamic Jihad, was born in Gaza's poor al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood, one of the bastions of Islamic fundamentalism. Islamic Jihad sources contended yesterday that the new leader holds more extreme positions than al-Shaqaqi. "He is in favor of intensive military activities and thinks Islamic Jihad must become more active," they said.

The new leader was elected by Islamic Jihad's leadership in Damascus and Beirut, following consultations with the Iranian leadership. Forty-year-old Shalah was never on Israel's wanted list, although he was one of the founders of Islamic Jihad at Gaza's Islamic University and rose to a very senior rank in the organization.

Shalah left the Gaza Strip 11 years ago to pursue an academic career. He went to Egypt to study economics and political science at Cairo University and got a Ph.D. He continued his postdoctoral studies at London University and Columbia, where he taught English and American students. Shalah then quit his teaching career and joined Islamic Jihad in Beirut.

A few years ago Dr. Shalah headed Islamic Jihad's headquarters in London. Together with Bashir Nafi' of the Qalandiyah refugee camp, he was in charge of transferring funds to finance Islamic Jihad's activities in the territories, and he worded the leaflets distributed by the organization in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shalah never severed his ties with Islamic Jihad's leadership in the Gaza Strip, particularly with his friends Fathi al-Shaqaqi and 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awdah. Following their deportation from Israel in 1988, Shalah met the two in London, and they proceeded to rebuild the organization's infrastructure.

His younger brother 'Umar served as his liaison with the Gaza Strip for years. Dr. Shalah would phone his brother and intersperse his conversation with code words from which 'Umar would gather that he should await operational orders at a certain time at night. 'Umar was arrested by the Palestinian Authority's security forces after the Bet Lid bombing in January this year and sentenced to 25 years in prison. The special

Palestinian security tribunal charged him with recruiting and training suicide bombers.

'Arafat on Daily Round, Life's Goals

MM3010172195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Oct 95 p 17

[Interview With Yasir 'Arafat by Daphne Barak; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Barak] Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, why do you wear the same military uniform? Is the revolution still going on and do you feel comfortable wearing it?

['Arafat] I am not the head of the Palestinian National Authority. I am still the commander-in-chief of the Palestinian Army.

[Barak] When will you feel that you do not need to wear this uniform?

['Arafat] When my mission as the commander-in-chief of the army is over.

[Barak] There are many people who know you, but do not really! For example, when I met you the last time in Paris, it was 0300 or 0400 hours, and I know that you are usually up until 0400, 0500, or 0600 hours every day, and most of your men also work at these hours. Is this still your normal life pattern?

['Arafat] This has been part of my life since the early days. I have been used to serious, steady work since the early part of my life. For example, when I was in Kuwait, I was working as a civil engineer with three companies at the same time. Three, not just one, can you imagine?

[Barak] Then you work 24 hours a day.

['Arafat] Yes, that is my lifestyle and I do not know how to live differently.

[Barak] Have you tried any other way or do you want to continue as you are?

['Arafat] No, I like it the way it is. Life without work is meaningless.

[Barak] How many hours a day do you work?

['Arafat] Between 16 and 18.

[Barak] How many hours' sleep do you get?

['Arafat] Between five and six. Sometimes I cannot sleep.

[Barak] You have recently become a father, are there any new experiences for you, like changing diapers for example?

['Arafat] Before this I adopted 28 orphans who had lost their fathers and mothers in the massacres of the Beirut refugee camps. We did not even know their names, and that is why I gave them all my name. Some have graduated from university and others have married. That is why I have a large family.

[Barak] But in spite of that, there is still some difference.

['Arafat] Yes, the birth of a new baby is something truly moving.

[Barak] You have a daughter. And I know that some of my American friends are disappointed if they have daughters and not sons. Are you also disappointed?

['Arafat] No, why?

[Barak] Do you want other children?

['Arafat] Yes, If I have the chance, why not?

[Barak] Tell me about the baby. Is she pretty and does she look like you?

['Arafat] She is pretty. And yes, she looks like me, even though I would have preferred her to look like her mother.

[Barak] Your current visit to New York differs from your previous ones. Circumstances have changed. Is that not so?

['Arafat] Yes my first visit was 21 years ago when I addressed the [United Nations] General Assembly and said, if you recall, that I carried an olive branch and that I would not let it fall from my hands.

[Barak] This time you were given a true welcome. Do you feel that you have achieved something important? You were invited to attend all ceremonies while Fidel Castro did not get that many invitations?

['Arafat] That is a different matter. In any case, Cuba is suffering because of the blockade.

[Barak] You have met with many Jewish organizations. Was their attitude confrontational or was it helpful and friendly?

['Arafat] I believe that my meetings were fruitful. For your information, this is not the first time that I am meeting with Jewish organizations. I have met with many of them in different places and circumstances. I have many friends in Jewish circles and have made new friends through the peace process with Israel.

[Barak] You must have been asked by many people about who will succeed you, and I know that it is not appropriate to ask this question, but I will ask you because you believe in democracy. How long will you remain like this and when will you retire?

[Barak] Retire? What does this word mean? I cannot imagine that I will retire some day, because if I were to retire from my position, I would try to occupy some other.

[Barak] How do you spend your free time, in spite of the fact that time does not allow?

['Arafat] I rest when I work. I cannot imagine life without work. Work is life.

[Barak] When you address the Jews or the West, you use mostly words of peace and coexistence, but when you talk to Arabs, you still refer to the jihad?

['Arafat] I have heard the same talk more than once during this visit. You must understand the peculiarities of the language we speak. There are some words which have specific Islamic meanings. I was giving a speech to some fanatical groups during my first visit to Johannesburg. Some Muslims were chanting slogans condemning the peace process, so I asked them: Are you Muslims? No. Real Muslims believe that the supreme jihad is in fighting the self and facing up to life with strength and courage and building society and the state. That is the supreme jihad, if you were a genuine Muslim. I was shocked when some misunderstood what I meant. It seems that cultured people and intellectuals understand the meaning of my words, but try to distort my intentions.

[Barak] Do you believe that there is the possibility of a dialogue between you and those extremists? Do you think you can convince them and win their support for the peace process?

['Arafat] I am doing everything I can to achieve that. I cannot pretend that I will perform miracles, but I will try.

[Barak] It must be really exhausting for anyone to face so many problems on several fronts. Hamas on one side, Israel on the other and...?

['Arafat] Yes. We are going through a very difficult phase, but I strongly believe that the difficulties are part of my destiny and I cannot escape my destiny.

[Barak] Your destiny is fraught with surprises and exciting events. You have escaped many assassination attempts, is that not so?

['Arafat] My faith is strong, and I believe in God and my destiny.

[Barak] Do you sometimes get scared?

['Arafat] No, no.

[Barak] You seem very calm, perhaps the person with most peace of mind and calmness among the people in this room.

['Arafat] This has become part of my life; wherever I go I find the same thing, security, guards, threats...

[Barak] And what about your personal life?

['Arafat] I do not have any time for private matters.

[Barak] When will we see the emergence of the Palestinian state?

['Arafat] Very soon, according to the agreement that we signed in Oslo in 1993. We also signed a second agreement, and the third and last phase will start in May 1996.

[Barak] What will you personally do on the day when the Palestinian state is announced?

['Arafat] If the people elect me, I will continue working.

[Barak] Supposing that you woke up one morning and found that the Palestinian state had been established, what would you do?

['Arafat] I would be truly happy. This is my purpose in life, to achieve happiness for our people and provide a cherished homeland where they can live a free and dignified life.

[Barak] But this is what you have been fighting for all your life, and let us suppose that you wake up one of these days and found that the Palestinian state has truly started, what would you do? Would you dance, sing, sleep, or pray?

['Arafat] I will go to meet the children of Palestine to see how they celebrate their independence and freedom.

[Barak] Do you want to say anything?

['Arafat] Yes, the international community has a political and moral responsibility toward the Palestinian people, and the time has come to extend a helping hand to the Palestinians so that they can rebuild a new life.

[Barak] Do you mean financial help?

['Arafat] Not only financial, but also social, political, financial, and moral support.

[Barak] Thank you very much.

['Arafat] Thank you.

Yusuf: Settlers Welcome To Join Palestinian Police

TA2610165495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] General Nasr Yusuf, head of the Palestinian Authority's [PA] National Security Forces, has called on the settlers to join the Palestinian Police as full-fledged policemen, saying that he will vouch for their safety. According to Yusuf, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] will vanish shortly.

Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that Yusuf made these remarks in an interview in Gaza with a correspondent of the ultra- Orthodox paper YOM HASHISHI. In the interview, scheduled to be published tomorrow, Yusuf says he has no doubt that a Palestinian state will be established alongside Israel and that if the settlers accept the authority of the PA, just as Israeli Arabs accept Israel's authority, they will be granted more privileges in the area of civil rights than those given to Israeli Arabs.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian Civilian Talks Begin in Jerusalem

TA3110173395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israeli and Palestinian officials held talks in Jerusalem today on the transfer of civilian responsibilities to the self-rule government in Judaea and Samaria. While the discussions addressed the transfer of authority in all areas, they focused on Janin, where the redeployment has gone under way last week. More from No'omi Segal:

[Begin recording] [Segal] After five hours, talks are continuing in Jerusalem on the transfer of civilian authority in the West Bank to the Palestinians. Heading the discussions are Major General Oren Shahor, coordinator of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activities in the territories, and Jamil al-Tarifi, the Palestinian Authority [PA] official in charge of civilian affairs. On the agenda is the transfer of some 40 spheres of civilian responsibility. The hand-over is linked to the Israeli troop pullback from the West Bank town slated for redeployment.

This was the first meeting of the joint committee on civilian affairs since the Taba accord was signed. The Palestinians had canceled previously scheduled meetings for a variety of reasons. Israeli officials acknowledged that the pressure was now on to conclude the transfer, if the sides are to meet the November 19 deadline for completion of redeployment from Janin. General Shahor hopes the timetable could be kept:

[Shahor] We have to do our work in a pragmatic manner, and we shall continue the implementation, the discussion, and everything.

[Segal] While discussions addressed the transfer of civilian responsibilities in all of the West Bank, the focus was Janin, where the redeployment got under way last week.

[Al-Tarifi] This committee, the high civilian committee, will have to implement the agreement and transfer the whole civil affairs, the whole authorities from the Israeli military government to the PA. We have to discuss it not only in Janin, but in the whole West Bank.

[Segal] Today's talks got off to a tense start as the Palestinians complained, in the name of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, that one of the district coordinating offices to be built in al- Birah near Ramallah, is located in area A, which is to be under Palestinian security and civilian rule. However, Gen. Shahor refused to take up the issue, saying it was a matter to be dealt with by the Joint Security Committee.

One of the participants in the talks, Muhammad Dahlan, the Palestinian security chief in Gaza, also protested the latest restrictions imposed on Palestinians in the territories in the wake of the killing of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi. To this, the Israelis responded that this was a security issue, and that they had been acting in accordance with the agreement.

Getting to the substance of their discussions, the sides agreed to appoint a number of subcommittees which will deal in details with certain spheres of civilian responsibility. The subcommittees were set up in the areas of population, elections, transportation, environment, and communications. The subcommittees are to continue talks in Janin as well next week.

The head of the Civil Administration, Brigadier General David Shahaf, also promised that the Civil Administration would do whatever is necessary to complete the Israeli redeployment from Bethlehem by December 24, so Christmas celebrations could take place beneath the Palestinian self-rule government.

On another matter, Gen. Shahor informed the Palestinians that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had approved their request that eight families expelled from Libya and stranded on the Egyptian border be allowed to enter the Gaza autonomous area in a one-time humanitarian gesture. [end recording]

Israel-PA Liaison Network Described

TA2810131695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Oct 95 p A2

[Report by Ori Nir; italicized acronyms published in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] The district liaison and coordination office *DCO* that started operating in Janin two days ago is one of seven planned for West Bank operations. One is already operating in Jericho, and there are two more in the Gaza Strip.

The Israel-Palestinian Authority [PA] security liaison and coordination network is supervised by the Joint Security Liaison Committee [JSC], which is in charge of all the territories. It is headed by Israeli Brigadier General Herzl Getz and the PA Brig. Gen. Ziyad al-Atrash. The Oslo agreement clearly defines the committee's mandate — supervising the security liaison system, serving as a framework for exchanging security information, settling conflicts and security disagreements, and so on. The committee is composed of five to seven officers from each side. It is supposed to hold routine meetings every other week, and could be summoned within 48 hours upon a special request by one of the parties.

In this framework, a Regional Security Committee [RSC] was set up for the West Bank. It will supervise seven District Liaison and Coordination Offices [DCO]. The RSC will be headed by Brig. Gen. Moshe El'ad and Brig. Gen. Rabhi 'Arafat. The RSC will meet more often than the JSC. Each of the parties will run a liaison and coordination situation room working around the clock, and the two situation rooms will maintain direct communication. The Israeli office will be in Bet El, while the Palestinian office will be at a site near Ramallah.

A separate DCO will operate in each district in sites determined in the Taba agreement. Each DCO will report on ongoing security matters to the RSC, and will command the joint ground patrols.

Each side will have a team of six officers in the DCO, including the team commander who will usually be of lieutenant general rank. The DCO's will also work around the clock, and will be manned by two officers from each side at all times (a duty commander and another officer) who will rotate on an eight-hour shift basis.

The DCO will be in constant contact with the joint patrols *JP* that will conduct patrols around the clock. The DCO will also operate Joint Mobile Units *JMU* which will be dispatched to specific sites on hoc cases of a security events that pertains to both the Israelis and the Palestinians, or upon a joint decision by the DCO. The DCO's will also serve as the framework for liaison and coordination of civilian issues as part of a separate structure (with communication hookup to the parallel security setup). The civilian setup will be headed by a joint committee for coordination and liaison on civilian issues *JCAC*.

[A boxed diagram on the same HA'ARETZ page describes the following set up: The JSC dominates two units: the Gaza DCO, in charge of northern Gaza Strip and of DCO Khan Yunus for the southern part of the Strip; and a the West Bank RSC that will supervise seven DCO's: the existing two in Jericho and Janin, and the five planned for Nabulus, Tulkarm, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Hebron.]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew on 28 October at 0700 GMT carries a report adding: "In the framework of the West Bank redeployment, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Palestinian police will operate 11 joint patrols in the areas of cities that will be handed over to the Palestinians. Heading the Judaea and Samaria security coordination system for the IDF will be Brig. Gen. Moshe El'ad. In an interview with our correspondent Yoni Ben- Menahem, Gen. El'ad said that it would be impossible to completely prevent clashes between IDF soldiers and the Palestinian Police and between the settlers and the Palestinian Police. The liaison apparatus is good, he said, but a lot of goodwill and restraint will be required from both sides on the ground.

["He added that the IDF recognizes the Palestinian Police as the only authorized PA body in the West Bank. Members of Jibril al-Rujub's security apparatus are moving into the territories without uniform and without any authority, and the IDF will deal with them accordingly. The IDF has information that the Palestinian Police is trying to prevent extremists from infiltrating its ranks. The Palestinians have presented Israel with incomplete lists of the policemen who are slated to deploy in the West Bank, Gen. El'ad said."]

Algeria

Sifi Appeals For Participation in Elections

LD3110233895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1955 GMT 31 Oct 95

[Speech by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi to local representatives in Ain Defla; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: prayers and peace upon the most honorable of messengers.

Brothers, sisters, residents of the brave province of Ain Defla, God's peace, mercy and blessing be upon you. [passage omitted]

Because the rulers failed to deliver, economic underdevelopment, social misery, and a feeling of injustice all encouraged the emergence of violence and extremism. Algeria is paying the price of a very harsh lesson with the blood of its children and the tears of widows, mothers bereaved of their children, and orphans. It is a lesson that no Algerian, whatever his standing, should forget. It is a lesson that says: whoever sows injustice, reaps lack of trust.

Brothers, sisters: this government, which is a transitional government and which is in the service of the citizens without any exception, knew from the day it was installed that it had an extremely difficult mission and that the achievement of its main goal, namely, preparing the conditions for a resumption of the electoral process, depended on regaining the citizens' trust in the public authorities. This trust was lost because of lies, contempt, incompetence, and corruption which was encouraged by old-fashioned management methods that we are doing our utmost to eliminate. This trust cannot be regained with speeches or promises, but by tangible action on the ground. [passage omitted]

This visit comes only two weeks before the presidential elections of 16 November. It is my duty, in my capacity as prime minister and the first person responsible for the holding of these elections, to launch, once again, as I did in other areas, an appeal to the Algerian people to take part in the elections. You must go to the polls; these elections are not ordinary ones, but constitute a historic opportunity for all the citizens to raise their voice high and say: Enough of sedition, enough of bloodshed and tears, enough of hatred and violence, enough of all this; enough is enough. It is also an opportunity for them to say, out loud and strongly, to those, abroad and from abroad [as heard] who want and intend to impose their guardianship on the Algerian people: This people is sovereign and will remain sovereign whatever price it has to pay.

On 16 November, the free people of Algeria will go to the polls to choose their president from four of their children who are fighting for the sake of Algeria, here in Algeria. They will go to vote for stabibility and dignity and against adventurism, against ignorance and violence, and against foreign interference. They will go to the polls to have their say, which is higher and stronger than lies, slanders, fraud, and distortion. They will go to the polls to say yes to democracy; yes to a constructive and calm dialogue; yes to differences of opinion in peace and stability; yes in the interest of the nation. They will go to the polls to say yes to national cohesion; yes to the eternal Algeria. [applause]

Brothers and sisters: Algeria can come out of this ordeal only by relying on itself. We should not expect help from any other country. Indeed, there is no country which is helping us. There are only relations of interests. Algeria is a rich country, very rich with its natural and human resources. We find that the countries that have economic relations with us benefit a great deal from this as far as their interests are concerned. No one offers us aid without any return and without any interest. The citizens must know this and they must ponder this very carefully. States, as they say, are inanimate monsters [as heard]; they are selfish. It can only be the Algerians themselves who will bring Algeria out of the crisis, as they did in November 1954 when the people decided to get rid, once and for all, of 130 years of colonialism.

In that year, many countries doubted our victory and today some countries have not learned that clear and resounding lesson of history; namely, that when the people decide to rise against their enemies nothing can stop them. Those countries, which are today doubting the will of Algerian men and women to reject and combat terrorism relentlessly, are by such an attitude the partners of the enemies of our nation. Algeria will remember that and will never forget it.

Furthermore, Algeria's security, as I have already said during my trips abroad, cannot be dissociated from the security of the entire Mediterranean region, from the north to the south. There can be no peace and stability in the Mediterranean so long as there is no peace and stability in Algeria. Those who ignored this yesterday are today reconsidering this bitterly. Those who are still ignoring this today will regret it very much tomorrow.

I hope that this message which I address from here symbolically, from Ain Defla, the land of fighting and resistance, to the countries which are watching us, is a clear message. Algeria will, God willing, come out of this crisis very soon. [applause] It will come out of this crisis stronger, more united, more republican, and more democratic. We are not asking for help from anyone and consequently we do not want any interference in our internal affairs. We do not allow it and we will never allow it. [passage omitted]

On this occasion, I would like to do my duty, my duty as a Muslim, my duty as a citizen, and my duty as an official; this duty is to launch an open appeal, once again, to all those who have erred or have been misled into the adventure of terrorism which has no way out [applause]: Repent, repent, and return to your families; return to your homeland, return to your nation, return to your senses. It is not too late yet and it will never be too late when it is a question of a good deed. Do not let the apostates and the traitors mislead you. These people carry with them the curse of the blood of the innocent. They know nothing about Islam. [passage omitted]

Let all those who hear me repeat my appeal and let this appeal reach the ears and hearts of our children who have been misled and deceived and who have become like prisoners through terror, fear, lies, and calumnies.

The security forces have been instructed to welcome you and protect you. Do not listen to the lies of the atheists [as heard]. Return to life. Return to dignity. Return to Algeria.

Brothers and sisters: I would like from here, in Ain Defla, to salute all the citizens, men and women, who rose to defend the honor of the homeland against the bloody traitors. They are the true successors of the combatants of the November revolution. Let them be an example to be followed by all the Algerians who have the dignity of their country at heart; in every municipality, every village, every hamlet, and every district. Rise in every municipality, every village, every hamlet, and every district, rise and chase away the murderers of women and children. Rise and purge this disgrace out of our country. Rise and rid our history of this blemish. [applause]

Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs. Long live Algeria and peace upon you. [applause]

Opposition Parties Call For Boycott of Election

LD0111093995 Paris Radio France International in French 0730 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria yesterday, the opposition parties which signed the Rome Platform document called for a boycott of the 16 November presidential elections. For them, the results of an election held under duress cannot confer popular legitimacy on those in power.

Egypt

Musa, Delegation Return From Amman Conference

NC0111065595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egypt's delegation to the Middle East and North Africa economic summit, which has ended in Amman, returned home last night. The delegation, which was led by [Foreign Minister] 'Amr Musa, comprised the minister of the business sector, minister of state for administrative development, the ministers of tourism, industry, petroleum, and economy and foreign trade, the minister of state for international cooperation, and the head of the executive branch of the General Investment Authority.

Musa Comments on Outcome of Amman Conference

Clarifies Reference to 'Rushing'

NC0111080995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the Amman economic summit for the Middle East and North Africa achieved the desired results, particularly with regard to the Egyptian private sector, which was represented at the summit. The representation was very clear about its activities and contacts with its counterparts in various countries.

In an interview with today's AL-AHRAM, Musa said there is no such thing as "reaping fruit quickly," because the proposed projects, such as those in the Gulf of 'Aqaba, need years to be implemented. The private sector projects do not require a summit like the Amman summit.

He added that the issue of establishing a bank for the Middle East falls within the international trend to establish a bank for every region. There is a bank for Africa and there is also the World Bank. A regional bank is needed as an example and as a symbol of economic cooperation. He pointed out that it is wrong to say that such a bank serves Israel's interests.

With regard to the discussions between Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Jordanian monarch King Husayn pertaining to the reference to "rushing" [toward Israel], Musa said in his interview: We are discussing a balance of speed and realizing the objectives and balance of the march.

He pointed out that the word "rushing" in its economic context means warning against being hasty in preparing projects that have reportedly been studied but that have not been studied properly.

He added that things were placed under control after King Husayn responded. I wanted to control the repercussions and effects of the use of the word and place it in its economic rather than political context, Musa said.

Musa clarified that there is scope for the private sector to do business. There is also scope for equal relations with Israel. The more the peace process advances the more these economic relations progress, including relations between Egypt and Israel as well as regional relations.

On Jordanian Relations

MM3110170595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Oct 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sami Dhubyan in London and Ali Ibrahim, Mazin Hijazi, Mufid 'Awwad, and Ibrahim Hasan in Amman: "'Amr Musa Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Dispute Over 'Rush' Storm in Teacup"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that the dispute [with Jordan] caused as a result of the "rush" [to normalize with Israel] was merely a storm in a teacup. And that the tension resulting from this has had no negative effect on relations between Egypt and Jordan.

He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Amman that the development bank issue has been settled and that it will be based in Cairo. [passage omitted]

In Amman, the Egyptian foreign minister said that what happened with Jordan as a result of his speech and his reference to the rush toward peace, and King Husayn's reply to it, has had no negative impact. He said that there is no problem at all between Jordan and Egypt, and that cooperation, coordination, and meetings are continuing between the two sides, in addition to the joint projects that will be set up with the participation of both Egypt and Jordan, most importantly the project concerning linking the four electricity grids, that is the Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli grids.

He added that the Jordanian and Egyptian sides have not yet agreed on a date for the meetings of the higher joint Egyptian-Jordanian committee scheduled to be held in Amman, but contacts are continuing between the two sides to that end. He denied that he has been congratulated by Syria for his speech at the conference the day before yesterday. He said that the dispute over "the rush" was actually a storm in a teacup. [passage omitted]

Court Hearing of Muslim Brotherhood Cases Detailed

NC3110193595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—The Higher Military Court held a session today to continue hearing the case of the first group of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood members, which involves 49 defendants, one of them a fugitive.

The first defendant, Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan, asked to speak. He called on the court to rescind a decision it issued yesterday asking that all released suspects in the case be re-detained. He said many of them are old and sick.

He said the defendants will stick to the defense team that withdrew from the case yesterday. He asked the court to meet that team's demands and to postpone hearing the case until the administrative judiciary has made a ruling on a lawsuit contesting referral of the case to the military judiciary.

Al-'Aryan also wanted the dates of the court sessions to be farther apart to give the defense and the defendants time to rest and prepare their defense.

The court replied by saying that it had indeed set long intervals between sessions. It said that the succession of hearings serves justice and that it is the defendants' right to choose their lawyers.

The court explained that its decision yesterday to keep all defendants, including those who had been released, in detention was made after a statement by the first defendant that none of the defendants would attend the next sessions.

Lawyer Majdi 'Abd-al-Sattar, representative of the appointed defense team, made a speech in which he stressed that the team fears no one. The team is here today at the invitation of the court, he said, adding that the former defense team should not have abandoned the case as this was not in the defendants' interest.

He demanded that the defendants who had been set free be released once again. He said the new defense team seeks only the truth.

A lawyer attending the session attacked lawyer Majdi 'Abd-al-Sattar saying that his speech offends Lawyers Doyen Ahmad al-Khawaja. The court president asked the lawyer to respect the court, but when he continued his attack against the representative of the appointed defense team, the court president ordered him out of the court.

After a short recess, the court decided to adjourn the session until tomorrow, Wednesday [1 November], so that the defendants' defense team and the appointed defense team can attend. The court decided to release the 16th defendant, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah al- harif, 76, but asked that he continue to attend the sessions.

In a related development, the military court held a second session to hear the case of the second group of outlawed Muslim Brotherhood members, which involves 33 defendants including journalist Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud, member of the Journalists Syndicate's Council.

The court confronted the defendants with the charges made against them, and they stressed they are not guilty.

The defense team asked for time to obtain the case's file and prepare their defense. The court decided to adjourn the session until Sunday.

The session was attended by Journalists Doyen Ibrahim Nafi' and five members of the Journalists Syndicate Council. They met with journalist 'Abd-al-Maqsud and assured themselves about his condition. They stressed that the Journalists Syndicate is ready to meet all his requests.

Muslim Brotherhood Founder's Grandson Arrested

NC3110143095 Paris AFP in English
1348 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 31 (AFP)—Police have arrested the grandson of the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood, netting the most senior figure in the banned group since a crackdown began, police sources said on Tuesday [31 October].

Ahmad Sayf al-Islam Hasan al-Banna was making a campaign tour late Monday in the Darb al-Ahmar district of Cairo, where he is running for parliament, when police arrested him, the sources said.

Police accused Sayf al-Islam, who is also head of the lawyers' union, with "urging a gathering against the government" and using "expressions against the ruling government" in his campaign speech.

Sayf al-Islam is the highest leader in the Brotherhood to be arrested since police began a crackdown on the group early this year. He is the grandson of Hasan al-Banna, who founded the Brotherhood in 1928 and was assassinated in 1949.

The authorities have so far put 81 Brothers on military trial since taking action against the organisation.

Brotherhoood spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi told AFP that Sayf al- Islam was handing out campaign literature in the district when he was arrested along with fellow Brother Muhammad Badawi, a former MP and four supporters. Sayf al-Islam was still being detained on Tuesday awaiting questioning, al-Hudaybi said.

"This is something every candidate does, pass out literature. Moreover the government does not allow (Brotherhood) candidates to hold rallies or make speeches," al-Hudaybi said.

The Brotherhood, which was to field 150 candidates in the elections set for November 29, has accused the government of staging the arrests and trials against it to sabotage its chances in the vote.

Some 50 of the 81 Brothers on trial had intended to run as candidates. But on Monday they announced they would not enter the race in protest against the government campaign.

Banned in 1954, the Brotherhood has had a long truce with the state, which tolerated its activities from the mid-1970s.

But the truce ended last year when President Husni Mubarak accused the group of having links to Muslim militants waging a violent campaign to overthrow him.

Grandson Freed on Bail

NC0111101595 Paris AFP in English
0753 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 1 (AFP)—The Cairo prosecutor on Wednesday [1 November] freed on bail the son of the Muslim Brotherhood's founder [as received; Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna is the founder's grandson] following his arrest as part of a crackdown on the banned movement, his family said.

Police arrested Ahmad Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna on Monday as he was campaigning in the Darb al-Ahmar district of Cairo, where he is running for parliament.

They accused Sayf-al-Islam, who is also secretary general of the lawyers' union, of organising an anti-government rally and criticising the authorities in a campaign speech.

He was the highest Brotherhood leader to be arrested since police began a crackdown on the group early this year. He is the son of Hassan al-Banna, who founded the Brotherhood in 1928 and was assassinated in 1949.

Sayf-al-Islam and five other people arrested with him — Brotherhood worker Muhammed Badawi and four supporters — were freed after each paying 500 Egyptian pounds (150 dollars) bail.

Islamic Students Protest U.S. Embassy Move

NC3110160295 Paris AFP in English
1409 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 31 (AFP) — Some 2,000 Islamic students at two Egyptian universities on Tuesday [31 October] protested the US congress decision to move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, police sources said.

Around 1,500 students marched across Cairo University campus, shouting slogans against Israel, the United States and the government of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, police said. They also demonstrated against the university administration, accusing it of crossing out the names of Islamic candidates from lists for student union elections to be held on Wednesday.

At the same time, 600 students at Al-Azhar University in Cairo held a second day of demonstrations against last week's decision by the US Congress to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to the holy city, police said.

Police surrounded both universities to prevent violence stopping students from marching into the streets, but both demonstrations ended peacefully.

Students at Cairo University, led by a student group known as the Islamic Movement, have held a series of protests over the past two weeks against the imprisonment of members of the Moslem Brotherhood group and against what they call "corruption" in university elections.

The final status of Jerusalem is due to be decided in talks between Israel and the PLO set to open in May.

Israel captured and annexed Arab east Jerusalem in 1967, ignoring international protests. But the Palestinians want the eastern sector as the capital of any future state.

Mufti on U.S. Congress Bill, Jerusalem Status

NC0111100395 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic
0610 GMT 1 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Mufti Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, in Abu Dhabi, by Fayiz al-Miliji, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Miliji] We would like to learn your view of the U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

[Tantawi] This decision was not right. It is unfair because, as you mentioned at the beginning, there was agreement that Jerusalem would be discussed after the set phases and in the final stage. The speedy decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem in late May 1999 is clearly biased toward Israel. It also violates agreed-upon charters and accords. All God-given religions reject the violation of such charters and accords. From the shari'ah point of view the talk on this issue is premature. It is not right.

[Al-Miliji] Dr. Tantawi, the Palestinian brothers have agreed that Jerusalem could be a capital for both states—Israel and Palestine—but Israel refuses this. What is your comment?

[Tantawi] This refusal has no religious or historical basis and it is not right. If our Palestinian brothers have agreed that East Jerusalem be theirs, west Jerusalem the Israelis, and if they cooperate with each other, this is up to our Palestinian brothers. We support the view of our Palestinian brothers because it is their country and they know their interests better. There is no objection to that. [passage omitted]

[Al-Miliji] Jerusalem is now in crisis because of the U.S. Congress decision in Israel's favor, a decision Israel utilized to declare Jerusalem its eternal capital. What is expected of the Islamic world now?

[Tantawi] The Islamic world must work through every means sanctioned by Almighty God to enact justice and end wrongdoing. Places of worship, such as the Holy Sepulcher Church and al-Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem, as our Palestinian brothers believe, must remain for the Arabs, the Muslims, and the Christians—administratively, politically, socially, religiously, and in all respects. This area should be administered by the Muslims, who have lived on this land for 14 centuries since the Islamic conquest in the era of [Caliph] 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab.

[Al-Miliji] Would you tell us about the agenda of the Jerusalem seminar held in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] in which you are participating?

[Tantawi] The seminar was inaugurated on behalf of His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan by his son, Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, who is the under secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Information. After several speeches at the seminar we met [UAE President] Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan for over one hour, perhaps two. His highness spoke at length and we exchanged views at the meeting. His highness said frankly and clearly that Islamic shari'ah makes peace with those who are at peace with shari'ah's followers, and we extend our hand of peace to anyone who extends a hand of peace to us.

[Al-Miliji] Should we expect resolutions?

[Tantawi] Most probably. Those who organized this seminar or festival are bound to issue resolutions at its conclusion, God willing.

Pakistan Defense Minister Mirani Continues Visit

Discusses Cooperation With Tantawi

NC3110143595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 31 Oct [MENA]—Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi, commander in chief of the Armed forces, minister of defense and war production, received today Pakistani Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani, who is visiting Egypt.

They exchanged views on issues of mutual interest and discussed ways of boosting military cooperation between their two countries.

Meets With Mubarak

NC0111095095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0852 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received Pakistani Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani, who is currently visiting Egypt.

Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production; the Pakistani ambassador in Cairo; General Jamshir Malik, secretary general of the Pakistani Defense Ministry; and Colonel Sayed Isar Husayn, the Pakistani attache in Cairo [previous two names as transliterated], attended the meeting.

Mubarak Receives Visiting Italian Official

NC0111121595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—At the presidential headquarters this morning, President Husni Mubarak received Guglielmo Negri, secretary general of the Italian Government and official responsible for cooperation among the government, senate, and Italian Chamber of Deputies.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Italian ambassador in Cairo. Negri stated after the meeting that he handed President Husni Mubarak a message from the Italian prime minister expressing his appreciation for the great progress in bilateral relations and ties of friendship.

He said: We exchanged opinions on political and international affairs and discussed opportunities for cooperation between Egypt and Italy in view of the importance of the Egyptian role in the region. We also discussed the various issues in the Middle East, international developments, the United Nations, and partnership with the European Union.

Chief of Staff Witnesses 'Nasir 1' Canal Crossing

NC3110222195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ismailia, 31 Oct (MENA)—Lieutenant General Majdi Hatatah, chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces, today witnessed the fourth and final phase of the "Nasir 1" training exercise.

During the exercise an armored unit crossed the Suez Canal using all methods. It occupied a forward waiting area east of the canal and implemented measures to carry out a battle under enemy air attacks and with the possibility that it might use weapons of mass destruction. The armored unit's aim was to destroy the advancing enemy's forces, restore the defense positions, and secure the forward defense line.

The fourth phase of the exercise included an offensive by dispatching forward detachments to seize vital positions and targets outside the forward defense line, repel the enemy's counterattacks, and destroy its reserves. Air force planes launched successive strikes to destroy the enemy's forces confronting the advancing detachments. Alpha Jet and F-16 planes participated in the air attacks. Gazelle and M-8 helicopters fired rockets at the enemy's anti-tank reserve forces. Chinook helicopters participated in the attacks and landed artillery units, which participated with the air force in securing the advancing detachments and the main bulk of the armored unit.

The fighters proved their ability to learn the most modern warfare methods and to best use the M1A1 tank according to the nature of the terrain and the mission entrusted to them.

Lt. Gen. Hatatah ordered the artillery units to strike at unplanned targets, which were hit accurately. He lauded the high performance displayed by fighters and asked them to work harder to maintain the highest level of combat efficiency and preparedness.

Radio: Peace Tied to Regional Cooperation

NC3110201595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 31 Oct 95

[Commentary by Samir 'Abd-al-Tawwab: "Politics, the Economy, and Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Politicians and economists frequently note that politics and the economy are two sides of the same coin. Although politics and the economy are complementary, in certain circumstances politicians and economists warn against politicizing the economy. Politicians and economists use these political and economic terms only when it serves their political and economic interests. At other times they discard them.

Middle East peace loomed and the promise of a new era appeared on the horizon, an era in which conflict among neighboring countries, particularly between the Arabs and Israel, was going to end. Agreements and treaties were signed, restoring lawful rights, eliminating regional tension, and helping to bring stability and security to all Middle Eastern nations, thus encouraging concrete economic growth. In this climate the concept of regional economic cooperation or economic integration appeared and the term peace economy was coined.

Politicians and economists embarked on developing and advocating ideas to promote this objective. They offered divergent, sometimes contradictory views. Two views stood out. The first was that any collective economic projects undertaken at this time were only a prelude for an overall regional cooperation involving a comprehensive peace. The advocates of this view believed that only a just and comprehensive peace would make it possible to implement these collective economic projects because a peaceful climate provides good intentions, good neighborliness, and mutual benefits. They stressed that peace must come first. The holders of this view, notably Arab-African-Islamic-Middle Eastern Egypt, maintained that a comprehensive peace and the subsequent peace economy would remain incomplete without progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. They added that a security balance among the region's countries is necessary, stressing that the security of the region's nations would be achieved by removing weapons of mass destruction, whether nuclear, chemical, or biological, from the Middle East. This view is buttressed by lawful rights that must be restored to their owners and a need to provide an atmosphere of stability and security in which they can enjoy a peace unmarred by a polluted environment. It would be a peace in which the region's nations could fulfill the dream of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace for which successive generations have offered sacrifices.

The holders of the second view maintained that the road to peace was long and arduous and that peace might take a long time to achieve because of political and other well-known considerations. The advocates of this view held that economic cooperation among the region's countries might actually help the various parties, notably the parties to the long-standing Arab-Israeli conflict, to settle their unresolved disputes quickly on the grounds that economic progress will bring many benefits and consequently help to settle those disputes. This view holds that Egypt was the first country to conclude political and economic agreements and treaties with Israel. Here a pause is needed.

The Egyptian-Israeli peace was concluded only after the last inch of Egyptian territory was liberated. Nevertheless, Israel sees that its peace with Egypt is a cold one and demands a specifically economic peace, as the Israeli foreign minister said yesterday. Egypt believes the opposite. It sees this peace and the prospective economic peace as an ordinary peace that can assume its natural and correct status when Israel rids itself of the vestiges of its overbearing attitude and the traces of the racist ideas advocated by some people in Tel Aviv who still live in an illusory world. Egypt seeks normalization, cooperation, and economic integration without rushing headlong [harwalah] into the process. Its aim is to reach the decisive moment when an independent Palestinian state is established, the Golan Heights and south Lebanon are restored to their rightful owners, Israel rids itself of its inclination to dominate others, and peace and security come to the region's nations through the destruction of all weapons of mass destruction in line with international resolutions.

All this can be fulfilled under the aegis of peace on the condition that there are sincere intentions to make peace based on the conviction that peace in the region is inevitable.

In this context politics and the economy will go hand in hand until peace comes to all parties. This is the demand that Israel used to make not so long ago.

'International Supervision' of Elections Urged

*NC3110155295 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
26 Oct 95 p 10*

["Close Up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Blemishing Democracy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Election seasons in the Arab world are rare, if they exist at all. Even when elections are held here or there, the world rarely takes interest in them. This has encouraged Israel to boast about being the only democracy in the Middle East, since voters are the deciding factor in the authority transfer process.

The world has opened its eyes to a sudden election boom in the Arab world. Elections and referendums have been held in three Arab states within a few weeks, in spite of the differences in each democracy.

In Iraq, Saddam Husayn organized a rushed referendum, the type Arab people have been familiar with throughout history. It is a referendum in which the ruler reelects himself and confirms his authority. Saddam's conduct brought so much ridicule on himself and Iraqi democracy that the results were adversary to what he had hoped.

The second type of elections is being held in Algeria to elect a new president. The military regime in Algeria allowed three candidates representing three different political parties to run against their candidate, President Liamine Zeroual. A fifth candidate, former Prime Minister Reda Malek, was excluded for unknown reasons.

If the Iraqi elections are just a democracy-like act, the Algerian elections are an attempt to change the predicament brought on by the military and the different political powers.

Using an established democratic forum to achieve predetermined results does not mean that a democratic system has been established, nor does it establish democracy. It often blemishes and abuses democracy.

Therefore, the performance, discipline, and execution of the elections in Egypt, a third model different from the previous two, will be measured by the difference between this model and the Iraqi and Algerian models. After all, it is not in Egypt's interest to be classified under the same category.

In Egypt, the legislative elections involving all political parties and powers will be upon us soon. Even the Muslim Brothers who were recently arrested have been allowed to run in the elections. The state promise to hold clean elections under judicial supervision should provide reasonable guarantees of clean elections. This prompts us to support the call to accept international supervision of the electoral process or at least allow a neutral nationalist committee to monitor it.

We also call for refraining from any oppressive measures that might be misinterpreted or might cast shadows on the purity of the elections in Egypt. We do not want elections to be a mere facade like Iraq or a democratic trick to curb political powers and freeze change and progress like Algeria.

Accord Reached With Libya on Travel, Residence

NC3110190695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry issued a joint statement with Libya today at the end of the Egyptian-Libyan joint consular committee meetings. The meetings were held between 28 and 30 October and discussed consular issues of interest to both countries and other subjects of mutual concern. Special efforts were made to make recommendations that would solve the problems raised during the meetings.

The assistant foreign minister for consular affairs and head of the Egyptian delegation stated that the most important recommendation was to exempt Libyan nationals from having to obtain residence permits to reside in the Arab Republic of Egypt. This measure will facilitate any transactions that Libyans might undertake with Egyptian governmental departments, particularly land registry offices and other documentation departments. Additionally there will no longer be any need for Libyans to obtain Egyptian Foreign Ministry authentication of temporary one-trip travel documents issued to them by Libyan consular missions in Egypt.

Third, agreement was reached to inform the concerned Libyan authorities of the Egyptian demand—made in light of the two countries' special relations—to give Egyptian workers who are regarded by the Libyan Government as irregular workers the opportunity to legalize their status or make arrangements to receive pay due to them and other rights before leaving Libyan territory. Fourth, it was agreed that the Libyan authorities will expedite the procedures pertaining to payment of the Egyptian workers monthly salaries, the remittances they send back to their country in line with agreed-upon percentages, pensions, and social security payments. Fifth, it was agreed to facilitate the passage of the two countries' citizens via the al-Sallum border crossing point and other border points and to guarantee that they are well treated.

Tourism Projects With Jordan, Israel Approved

NC3110205595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 31 Oct (MENA)—Foreign and tourism ministers of Egypt, Jordan, and Israel held a trilateral meeting in Amman this evening to establish and lay out the general framework for regional cooperation for tourism.

Tourism Minister Mamduh al-Biltaji said Egypt proposed that Jordan and Israel use Ra's al-Naqab airport as an alternative to a proposed airport in Elat-al-'Aqabah. This was accepted. He told MENA that this step proved that a spirit of cooperation, not competition, prevails among the three parties.

It was also agreed that Egypt chair the East Mediterranean Tourism Organization, the establishment which was signed by Egypt, Turkey, and Israel in November 1993, Dr. al-Biltaji said. He said the organization will be renamed as "The Middle East and Mediterranean Organization" for tourism. This will be raised at the international travel market meetings in London this November, he said.

Concerning the Red Sea Riviera project, the tourism minister said the project was discussed in today's trilateral meeting. He explained that the project was originally prepared by a U.S. consultant company on behalf of Israel and Jordan, and it was raised again today so that Egypt can be involved in it.

He said Egypt will study the necessary financial and environmental considerations of the project within the framework of Egypt's general policy, which sees a need for link and parallelism between economic cooperation and a peaceful settlement.

Libya

Moroccan Diplomatic Sources on 24 Oct Coup Bid

TA3110153195 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 30 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Diplomatic sources in Morocco have said that a coup attempt was staged in Libya last Tuesday [24 October] the aim of which was control of the radio and television station. Moreover, a military unit, accompanied by popular armed cells, fired on a building in which Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was believed to be present.

The sources said that the coup had failed and that the exchange of fire had lasted until midnight. These sources believe that the coup attempt was planned by a religious movement that has adherents in the Libyan Army.

'Angry Masses' Demonstrate Over al-Shaqaqi Death

LD3110215895 Tripoli JANA in English 1734 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al-Tumur [October] 31 (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY) — Angry masses have rallied in Tripoli today in a demonstration of anger and protest against the assassination of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the secretary general of the Jihad movement, in the Maltese territory.

The angry masses marched through the streets of Tripoli raising the green flags and pictures of the leader of the revolution and placards expressing anger and protest by the population towards the horrible crime.

The angry masses called in their slogans for the punishment of the perpeatrators of this ugly crime and that the Maltese authorities should arrest the culprits.

The angry masses rallied in front of the Maltese Embassy where a statement by the masses to the ruling National Party in Malta was read.

The masses also delivered a statement to the charge d'affaires of the Maltese Embassy, the text of which was as follows:

The angry masses are rallying in front of the Maltese Embassy in Tripoli after receiving shocking news of the crime of murder of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi in Malta. The masses express their strong astonishment for the failure of the Maltese authorities, so far, to arrest the terrorist criminals. Malta is a small island and the authorities should not fail to hunt down the culprits in this crime.

The masses are holding the Maltese authorities and the ruling National Party fully responsible in case the culprits are not arrested. This might result in serious consequence which might affect all aspects of relations between Arabs and Malta, particularly the Libyan Arab interests in Malta and the Maltese interests in the Great Jamahiriyah.

To allow organized terrorism a free hand in the Maltese territory, which we used to believe as a safe island in the Mediterranean, which we want to make safe, to assassinate the innocent and the honourables is an act that is illogical and unacceptable. The ruling National Party in Malta has to define clearly its position through real actions.

All internationally acknowledged conventions oblige the ruling National Party in Malta to accelerate the discovery of all those invloved in this terrorist crime committed over the Maltese territory, and to restore confidence and trust, which we hope would not undermine Maltese justice and sovereignty. The angry masses gathering in front of the Maltese Embassy in Tripoli will be waiting for the clarification of the issue and hold the ruling National Party in Malta as fully responsible.

The issue is much more serious than a mere murder of an individual. It is the issue of honour of a stolen homeland and a people whose right has been confiscated. The struggle will continue until the dignity is avenged and until the confiscated rights are restored.

Call for UN Action

LD3110224895 Tripoli JANA in English 1923 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al-Tumur [October] 31 (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY) — The city of Tripoli has witnessed today a demonstration of anger and protest for the assassination of the secretary general of Jihad movement, Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

The angry masses demanded justice and called on the United Nations to punish those responsible for this terrorist act.

The angry masses rallied in front of the United Nations mission in Tripoli where the following statement was read and also delivered to the resident coordinator of the United Nations in the Great Jamahiriyah.

The crime of assassinating Fathi al-Shaqaqi is a terrorist act carried out by Israeli terrorist elements, who were engaged in many terrorist acts such as expelling Palestinian civilians and committing terrorist crimes that are still vivid in the memory.

The membership of the Israeli enemy in the United Nations Organization is the worst stain of disgrace in the history of the international organization, which has become a flexible tool in the hands of Israeli murderers and terrorists who did not comply so far with any U.N. resolution against them. These resolutions are more than 60 resolutions. America is manipulating the United Nations to serve its own goals and interests to the extent of making the United Nations lose its credibility.

The Israeli terrorists who committed and are still committing organized terrorist crimes despite the fact that these acts not only contravene the United Nations Charter but demolish it from its basis. Their chiefs of terrorism such as terrorist Rabin and terrorist Peres are addressing the highest United Nations forums in which they redicule and flout international resolutions.

The angry masses which rally today in front of the United Nations office in Tripoli, as they condemn strongly this organized terrorist activity, wish to reaffirm the following:

1 - The crime of assassinating Fathi al-Shaqaqi is an organized terrorist act and is the sort of terrorist acts which the United Nations call for its fight and resistance.

2 - The United Nations and its Security Council will prove once again that they are applying double standard policy if they do not take justice against the Israelis and apply Chapter 7 in respect of their terrorist cases and acts.

3 - The angry masses, rallying in front of the United Nations office in Tripoli to condemn the assassination of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, hold the United Nations and its secretary general the responsibility of punishing the culprits in this terrorist crime and all those who back them.

4 - This memorandum expresses a popular Jamahiri position and the United Nations and its secretary general should implement its contents to establish the United Nations credibility.

5 - The expulsion of the Israeli enemy from the United Nations Organization is the action through which the United Nations could [word indistinct] its real position regarding international terrorism. But if the membership of the terrorist entity is continued, then the nations of the world have the right to withdraw from the United Nations because they will not be honoured to join an international organization that accepts the membership of Israeli terrorists.

JANA Editors Comment on Various Topics

On U.S. Mideast Policy

LD3110190695 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1710 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 31 Oct (JANA) — The U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs has reiterated the foundations on which the American policy in the Middle East region is based.

Press reports published in the British capital on statements by American official quote him as stressing that these foundations are based on America's commitment to guarantee the security of Israelis and the security of what he called the stability of the Gulf, to reach the oil resources which the American economy relies on, to back America's interests in the region, and to combat what he called terrorism and the deployment of mass destruction weapons.

The JANA Arab affairs editor comments on the statements by the U.S. assistant secretary of state, saying: We notice once again, through the priorities of American policy in the Arab region listed by the U.S. assistant secretary of state, the American political orientation in the Arab homeland, which confirms our constant view and assessment that it based on guaranteeing the security of the Israelis before anything else. It is also based on America's control of the Arab oil resources and backing the American interests in the region. These things rule the American political moves toward the Arab countries, where American officials travel and wander and where they are welcomed with an embrace.

The editor asks if this American official did not conceal the basis governing U.S. policy in the Arab homeland: the security of the Israelis and American interests are above all considerations. So what meaning does the sovereignty of the Arab countries, who constantly welcome U.S. delegations, have, unless they are obliged to deal with this selfish hypocritical U.S. logic? And what is the meaning of any political relations that an Arab country establishes with America from now on unless the Arab countries carry out what they are ordered to do?

The editor pauses deeply at the U.S. official's claims over what he called combating terrorism and curbing arms proliferation, and concludes after a long chuckle that nobody in the world will be fooled by this cheap and fabricated charlatanism. All nations have become aware of the dimension of this persistence in political decline after America has become a major shelter for terrorists from all over the world, showering them with support and constant financing, and sending them to their countries in order to disturb stability and security. This has been confirmed by American radio, television, and newspapers, when they publish their names and the names of the countries to which they are sent, how the CIA recruits and trains them, how it makes long reports on them from inside the terrorist camps throughout the United States and in Peshawar. This has become a prominent characteristic of the state terror policy which America practises and many countries in the world get burned by it.

The JANA Arab affairs editor concludes his comment by ridiculing the flagrant claims of the American official to the effect that America works to check the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. He leaves the judgment on that claim to all political and non-political analysts in the world so that they may realize for themselves the extent of the effort by America to make the world ignorant of, be decived by, and be unaware that America possesses huge quantities of these destructive weapons, capable of totally destroying an area four times bigger than the entire area of the globe. It then exports the surplus to the Israeli enemy in a manner which makes the amount stored in occupied Palestine not only a threat to those who are running after the enemy and who gave themselves such a description at the failed Amman conference, and those who have capitulated and still have confidence in America, but it also threatens the entire Arab existence with extinction.

On Increase in Lockerbie Reward

LD0111121795 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There have been news reports of a vile American conspiracy that illustrates America's notorious haughtiness whereby it attempts to impose its tutelage over the international community, violate all international laws, and make a mockery of all UN conventions that reject piracy and terrorism.

The American intelligence radio known as Voice of America said that America has increased the reward given to the one who supplies information leading to what it called the arrest of the two suspects in the Lockerbie issue.

JANA's political editor commented on this American rowing against the [current] of right, justice, and law in the world and said that this American folly is the cowboy's method which prevailed in the eras of backwardness when the whites invaded the American continent, killed its original inhabitants, and occupied their land by force.

The editor pointed to the declaration by the Great Jamahiriyah, which has a civilized and legal logic, supported by all the international and regional legal organizations and more than two thirds of world states, that the allegation made in advance that they are the suspects in the Lockerbie incident was in complete contradiction with the most basic international laws and rules and particularly the Geneva convention on civil aviation accidents.

He said that the Great Jamahiriyah went further than that and proposed a just trial of the two suspects in a neutral country, but America and England completely flouted the logic of law and the will of the international community and this was met with condemnation and denunciation by all the forces who love peace, justice, and security in the world.

The editor pointed out that international conventions do not allow a state to hand over its sons to another state with which it has no agreement particularly in this context. The editor said also that running in the opposite direction to that international principle is running after a mirage.

At the end of his comment, JANA's political editor stressed that the spirit and principles of international law and international relations between world nations which recommend dialogue, recourse to the logic of reason and law, are the ones that must prevail in solving all the problems of two or more countries in the world. Anything contrary to that is a topsy-turvy logic which is rejected categorically by all the forces that love justice and stability in the world.

Denounces 'Failed' Amman Summit

LD0111110495 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Those who have been following up the proceedings of the unsuccessful Amman conference have been convinced today that the conference has failed totally and has achieved nothing.

To serve the Israeli enemy and its designs in the region on the expenses of the Arab nation and its just cause, the cause of Arab Palestine, [words indistinct] agreement signed by Fatah with the Israeli enemy and the progress achieved in implementing the [word indistinct] agreement between the Jordanian government and the Israelis [word indistinct] the so-called Amman Declaration to continue the march of capitulation with the enemy to consecrate the Israeli occupation and the hostile existence of the Israelis in the Arab Palestine.

The declaration of the unsuccessful Amman conference announced its support for any efforts made to end Arab boycott with the Israeli enemy. The Arab affairs editor of the Libyan news agency JANA commented on what the unsuccessful Amman conference has brought about. He said:

Thus, it has been confirmed beyond any doubts that Amman conference has failed from its start and that the only beneficiary from this conference was the Israeli enemy who deliberately participated with a greater delegation to increase pressure on the parties taking part in it with U.S. support to reap all the gains it achieved which were represented in the following [points]:

1. Expanding the circle of capitulation and disgrace for the benefit of this enemy and at the expense of the Arab nation's crucial issues and the struggle of the Arab people for long decades, propagating for the capitulation course for which the runners and capitulators were beating the drums.

2. During the Amman conference the Israeli enemy dealt another stab to the Arab nation and its whole existence, which was embodied in the support of what the conferees called the additional efforts to lift the Arab economic boycott from the Israeli enemy, undermining the Arab will and the agreements and conventions the Arab countries had signed and abided by through the Arab League, which can only be canceled by a unanimous [vote] by the members states of the Arab League.

JANA's Arab affairs editor pointed out that the contents of the so-called Amman declaration discloses frankly to the Arab nation's masses the nature and aims of that failed conference which serves the plan drawn up by America and the Israelis to invade the Arab body and hit the Arab homeland from inside so as to prepare suitable conditions for imposing full hegemony on the Arab homeland and put an end to the whole Arab existence. This confirms that the Arab masses have no alternative but to mobilize their means to block the road to the enemies of the Arab nation and their infernal plans and burn down and defeat the cards of this failed conference. The latter looked very fragile right from the opening of its proceedings as all the Arab and other foreign heads of states who were invited to attend it were absent.

Its statement ignored the Arab character of Jerusalem and this confirms the allegations of the terrorist Rabin who said, on his arrival in Amman, that Jerusalem will remain the eternal capital of the Israelis. Those who run toward surrender kept silent about that and only traders and speculators found any place in it. It was devoted to spreading the idea of Middle Easternism which is considered to be more dangerous than the Baghdad Pact.

Its final communique disclosed the dimensions of the conspiracy being planned by the enemies of this nation so as to eliminate its existence.

The Israeli enemy's intention was to expand its participation in the failed Amman conference after the arrival of the Israeli terrorists: the minister of finance, the minister of construction, and the minister of energy, to Amman yesterday. In addition to these, the terrorist Shim'on Peres was present and he adopted the failed Amman conference as his venue for intensifying pressures and imposing hegemony on the conference's atmosphere so as to reach the goal for which the conference was held and which consists in achieving as many gains as possible for the Israeli enemy in the region.

Ugandan-Supported Fighting Continues in South

Foreign Minister Comments

EA3110162295 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 31 October — Sudan has announced that it has adopted all political and military measures against Uganda in response to Uganda's open aggression against Sudanese territory which it launched yesterday [30 October], and has called on Uganda to desist from its aggression.

Professor Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha, the foreign minister, speaking from his ministry's regular forum today said: We find ourselves compelled to adopt such measures and to announce to the world that this Ugandan aggression has taken place in the course of Uganda's persecution of its opposition.

The minister said: This aggressive Ugandan attack cannot be justified. It is a military assault, by any standard.

Sudan will adopt measures to ensure its territorial integrity. While we fully respect good neighborliness and noninterference in other countries' internal affairs, we cannot tolerate our respect for these being compromised at the expense of the exploitation of our territory and national pride.

His Excellency the foreign minister said that the Ugandan aggression was still in progress in spite of the fact that the Ugandan Government had earlier in the course of [word indistinct] mediation undertaken to suspend all forms of support for the rebel movement. Agreement had also been reached in this respect to establish joint committees under the chairmanship of Malawi which would oversee and inspect the border between Sudan and Uganda and undertake the restoration of the relations between the two countries.

The minister said that Sudan fully observed all its undertakings [words indistinct] chosen by Malawi as the venue for the arrival of the border supervision committees. However, Uganda made various excuses and refused to submit a list of its representatives while persisting in its prevarications without [words indistinct] which obstructed the Malawian mediation.

He said that while participating in ceremonies commemorating 1 September, Sudan had (?received) a letter from the Ugandan [word indistinct].

SPLA Denies Receiving Support

AB3110200795 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 31 Oct 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It's the dry season in Sudan and that means time for the war between the government and the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] to resume in earnest. It happens every year at this time. This year, though, the military initiative seems to have been stolen by the rebel forces with the SPLA's capture of Palejok in Equatoria Region, and today the SPLA leader, John Garang, got in touch with us and claimed his men had captured more villages and was well on the way to the main city in the south, Juba. He said he'd captured lots of government equipment and killed or wounded thousands of government forces. The Khartoum Government, which is backed by the National Islamic Front, or NIF, said yesterday that Uganda was behind the latest offensive in Southern Sudan. So, Tom Porteous asked John Garang how much help he'd got from Uganda:

[Begin recording] [Garang] None at all. This is wishful thinking from Khartoum. I have been hearing Radio Omdurman and news from Khartoum that Uganda is helping the SPLA in terms of manpower and so forth. This is absolutely not true.

[Porteous] You must be getting your guns from somewhere.

[Garang] We got our guns from the NIF government. We have captured tanks, we have captured artillery pieces, and they are our...

[Porteous, interrupting] But you can't....

[Garang, interrupting] They are our primary source of supplies. The other source, of course, the arms are available in the international black market. It is, actually, no longer a black market. It is much grayer than it used to be, especially, after the Cold War.

[Porteous] Just last week, your spokesman in Nairobi was saying that you were expecting to have some kind of counterattack from the Sudanese government forces. Do you think that they can launch a counterattack on you now?

[Garang] We are the ones, actually, that are doing the counterattack. They were going to attack us, the NIF government has been on offensive for the last four years. What has happened is that the balance of forces on the ground has shifted. The SPLA has seized the initiative, the government has lost it, and we are going to pursue it.

[Porteous] If you are doing so well, why don't you attack Juba?

[Garang] We will attack, well, we attack when we choose to. We will not do it because the press says so or because some other people say so. We are working according to our organic plan.

[Porteous] Khartoum up until now has actually done a good job in the south in dividing the SPLA. What's the situation at the moment within the SPLA? You are still fighting among yourselves?

[Garang] Well, that's another wishful thinking from Khartoum. They are saying that... [pauses] The story from Khartoum is that after the collapse of the Mengistu regime, the SPLA would be defeated; after Lam Akol and Riak Machar announced their coup and they started collaborating with Khartoum the SPLA would be defeated, but I want to assure you that the infrastructure of war, that is, the SPLA fighting machine, although it had difficulty, it remained intact.

[Porteous] If I were a southern Sudanese living in southern Sudan, I would be a little bit alarmed by you saying on this program that the infrastructure of war was still intact. What I would be looking forward to would be an infrastructure of peace.

[Garang] It takes two hands to clap. You cannot be clapping peace when Khartoum is clapping war. So, the war is imposed on us. Southern Sudanese do not want war, that is, they want peace. At the same time, they do not want injustice. [end recording]

Spokesman: Army 'in Control'

EA3110194395 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 OCT 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Armed Forces spokesman has stressed that the Armed Forces are capable of cutting off all movements by the rebels and repulsing their attacks.

In a statement published in the daily national newspaper AL-INQAD AL-WATANI, the Armed Forces spokesman said the Army was now in control of the situation in the south following the futile attempts made by the rebels with Ugandan help. He pointed out that Uganda attempted to exploit the rebels in order to achieve its so-called objective of settling scores with factions hostile to it.

His Excellency stressed that the rebel movement was not serious about achieving peace and national unity. The Armed Forces official spokesman said the attack was part of the conspiracy being hatched against Sudan from different directions. He said the attack targeted the homeland and its achievements, adding that the rebels were incapable of fighting.

Further on Fighting

EA0111084095 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sudan has announced that it has taken all political and military measures against Uganda in response to Uganda's open aggression against Sudanese territory. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister stressed that Sudan respected the principle of good neighborliness and non-interference in the affairs of others. He said the Ugandan aggression was continuing, despite the fact that the Ugandan Government had in the course of the Malawian mediation halted all manifestations of help to the rebel movement.

An agreement had been reached on establishing a joint committee under Malawi to monitor the common border between Sudan and Uganda and on the gradual restoration of diplomatic relations. He said Sudan honored all its obligations as spelt out in the agreement and had sent a list of its representatives to the technical section of the joint committee and signed the protocol from the committee's meeting. [passage omitted]

He said that during the celebrations of 1 September, which is the anniversary of the Libyan revolution, Sudan was surprised at the letter sent by the Ugandan president to the Libyan president requesting the latter to resume his mediation efforts between Sudan and Uganda without indicating what stage Malawian mediation efforts had reached. The minister referred to the efforts made through Libyan mediation.

The minister said the Ugandan regime had issued threats through its constituent assembly against Sudan, saying it would pursue its opponents inside Sudanese territory, thereby violating all international charters and conventions.

The minister pointed to Uganda's open support for the rebel movement, saying it had established training camps and information offices in Kampala for the movement. He said this conduct by Uganda constituted a threat and an open provocation to Sudan.

His Excellency stressed that the military situation in Parajok and Magwe was still raging, and that the Ugandan Army had not yet withdrawn and the battle was in progress. He said the rebel forces were incapable of launching such an attack. He said Sudan would take all diplomatic measures and would contact international and regional organizations and forums in order to explain the facts about this Ugandan invasion.

Bahrain

Report on Meeting With Israel's Peres Denied

JN0111082295 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1920 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 31 Oct (WAKH)—A responsible source at the Bahraini Trade Ministry has denied press reports of a meeting between the Bahraini trade minister and the Israeli foreign minister on the sidelines of the Amman economic summit.

In a statement to WAKH, the source asserted that the report was groundless.

Iranian Envoy Sent to Tehran for 'Clarifications'

MM0111112395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
31 Oct 95 pp 1,6

[Report by Hasan al-Luqays: "Iran's Ambassador to Bahrain Returns to Tehran for Clarifications"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama — AL-HAYAH has learned from diplomatic sources in Manama yesterday that Javad Tork-Abadi, Iran's ambassador to Bahrain, recently returned home from Manama carrying a request for clarifications presented by the Bahraini Government to Iran concerning reports by official Tehran radio which have caused the Bahraini authorities' displeasure.

A high-level Bahraini official informed Ambassador Abadi on 8 October about the Bahraini Government's displeasure over reports by official Tehran radio (Arabic department) quoting one of the recently released clerics, directed against a Bahraini official and at odds with the government's new line on the expansion of the Shura Council's powers and some issues that the Bahraini Government intends to develop.

The sources expect the Iranian ambassador's absence to be prolonged, in view of the fact that Bahraini Ambassador to Tehran Sami Jalil al-Mu'ayyad is still in his own country, having been recalled by the Bahraini Government at the end of December 1994 for consultations and not having returned to his post since, except for a short period after which he returned to Manama.

Amir Urges Iraq To Comply With UN Resolutions

JN2810121995 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1030 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 28 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, said that Bahrain is looking forward to entrenching security and stability in the region and establishing stronger and more comprehensive relations in the interest of all peoples in the region.

His Highness also pointed out that he regrets the difficult tragic situation from which the Iraqi people are suffering due to the shortage of food and medicine.

During a meeting here today with Georgia Anne Giyer, a U.S. writer and journalist currently on a visit to Bahrain, his highness expressed hope that Iraq will respond to the UN resolutions, so the Iraqi people's suffering can be terminated.

Discussing developments in the Middle East peace process, his highness said that there is a long way to go before reaching a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East as long as there is slow progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

His highness pointed out that the Palestinians extended their hand for peace and expressed a desire for peaceful coexistence with Israel. Israel is demanded to positively respond to the articles and commitments stipulated in the peace agreement, he added.

During the meeting, his highness stressed the deep relations of friendship between the United States and Bahrain, which are based on mutual understanding and respect.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh 'Ali Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah; Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa', minister of state for cabinet affairs; and Ahmad al-Shuruqi, head of public relations and media services.

Kuwait

Parliament Regrets U.S. Senate Decision on Embassy

LD3110154695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1445 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 31 Oct 1995 (KUNA) — The National Assembly here today expressed its regret over the resolution adopted by the U.S. Senate on transferring the American embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

In a statement issued on this, the National Assembly said that this resolution is in contradiction to the resolutions previously issued by the UN Security Council on this issue and the agreements signed between Israel and the Palestinian Authority to postpone the discussion of the situation on this city to a later phase.

The statement pointed out that the peace which was required and which was the goal of the peoples of the region was a just peace which fulfilled the conditions of durability and would protect the legitimate rights of all the parties and that could only be achieved through dialogue on equal footing and not by foreign resolutions coming from the top and which impose a fait accompli and precede events.

It pointed out that this resolution is in contradiction with the fundamental principle on which the Middle East peace effort is based, which is land for peace, meaning that Israel would give up the territories it has occupied including Jerusalem which is the Arab and Islamic city where al-Aqsa Mosque is situated.

It pointed out that the above-mentioned resolution [words indistinct] the National Assembly calls on President Clinton to use the power [of veto] out of eagerness for the peace process and in affirmation of the role of the United States as a peace sponsor which is not biased toward any state of the region.

Success in Privatization Implementation Noted

LD2810191795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1631 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 28 Oct (KUNA) — The alternate member of the General Investment Authority [Kuwait Investment Authority], 'Ali Rashid al-Badr, expects that the privatization program implementation will be completed before the end of 1998 in view of the increased demand from investors for government shares in companies. He said there have been 23 requests, which ensured the program's success in its first year.

Badr added that the decision regarding public subscription in shares of the National Industries Company would be issued this week. He said that the government so far had sold shares worth 310 million dinars (approximately $1 billion). He pointed out that there were numerous negative aspects that came with the privatization program but these were currently being dealt with by looking at the state of the companies of a special nature (public services companies) and improving the situation of those in trouble.

This came in a detailed news conference given by Badr today on the occasion of the first anniversary of launching the privatization program. He said that one could look at the results of the program from two points of view. First, from the program's effect on the stock market and second, from the point of view of the state of the authority, as a representative of the state, and what losses or profits it made as a result of implementing the program.

As to the first point of view, Badr said that the program had led to new investors investing in local companies. He said some 15,000 people had subscribed to shares sold by the authority. He said the monthly share trading figures had increased from an average 45.3 million dinars in the first half of 1994 to 248.7 million dinars in the first half of the current year.

He added that the program's success was also evident in the return of local capital to Kuwait. He said private deposits had increased from 5.5 billion dinars in June 1994 to 6.1 billion dinars last August. Furthermore, the central bank had registered a decrease in the amount of transfers abroad.

As to the second point of view, the increase in the average prices in the local stock market has led to a similar increase in the value of the portfolio of local shares the state holds through the authority. This portfolio's value has increased by more than 300 million dinars since July 1994. [passage omitted]

Badr noted that the general investment authority (the government's representative) holds more than 10 percent of shares in 28 companies. It's stake is worth 9.24 billion dinars, 34.5 percent of which is in the banking sector, 20.6 per cent in the manufacturing sector, and 20.5 percent is in the services sector. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Minister on Gas Deal, Relations With Israel

TA3010121295 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew
30 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Dan Avidan in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abdallah al-'Atiyah, Qatari energy and industry minister, told DAVAR RISHON yesterday that it was still early to talk of implementing a gas deal between Qatar and Israel. "The issue is still being discussed, and when the project is implemented it will be carried out by the American Enron company," al-'Atiyah told me.

Replying to a question on whether the Qatari Government would delay establishing diplomatic relations with Israel until an Israeli-Syrian peace agreement was reached, the minister said: "Progress in the Syrian and Lebanese tracks may further cooperation between Qatar and Israel."

Memo Signed on Shipment of Gas

TA3110103695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1000 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A memorandum to supply gas from Qatar to Israel beginning in year 2000 through the U.S. international gas conglomerate Enron was signed today. In the first stage, the gas will be used to produce electricity. Our correspondent in Amman Menahem Friedman reports that Enron this morning signed separate memorandums with Israeli Energy Minister Gonen Segev and the Qatari energy minister. Some $400 billion will be invested in producing the liquid gas in Qatar and another $300 million to convert it into gas in Israel. Enron will raise the funds to implement the project.

Explosion in INC Offices Kills 'at Least 25'

NC3110212795 Paris AFP in English 2112 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Oct 31 (AFP) — A bomb ripped through the offices of an Iraqi opposition organization in northern Iraq on Tuesday [31 October], killing at least 25 people and wounding many more, officials from the Iraqi National Congress [INC] told AFP.

INC vice-president Latif Rashid said: "The explosion caused many deaths and there are many, many wounded. It caused the destruction of several houses nearby."

The blast occurred in the INC security offices in the center of the northern Iraqi town of Salahuddin and rescuers were still searching through the rubble late Tuesday.

The INC is an umbrella grouping of Iraqi opposition forces. Rashid, also a spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, told AFP by telephone from London that he feared the death toll could rise. He said there were many children among the casualties.

Among the dead was the security chief of the INC, Safid Rashid Sindi, he added.

PUK Spokesman Welcomes U.S. Mediation

NC3110184195 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1620 GMT 31 Oct 95

[Statement by an official PUK spokesman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The PUK [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan] welcomes the U.S. mediation and wishes it success. It also welcomes the U.S. delegation that will visit Iraqi Kurdistan to promote the mission the United States has undertaken in the past.

The PUK hopes that the U.S. delegation will exert firm and decisive efforts with the speed necessary to bring the mission to a successful conclusion. The PUK believes that the United States must stand firm against Iraq's meddling in Iraqi Kurdistan by giving heavy and light weapons [to the Kurdish forces] and building up forces on the frontlines. The United States must also focus its efforts on resolving Kurdish-Iraqi differences and establishing peace in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Questions pertaining to the security of Iraq's international borders can be discussed in unilateral meetings, especially between the parties concerned. The PUK again thanks and appreciates all those who have made serious and sincere efforts to establish peace in Iraqi Kurdistan, be they states such as the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey, or parties and national figures. Peace is a precondition for making Iraqi Kurdistan a bastion for liberating Iraq from Saddam's dictatorial regime.

Ramadan Cited on 'Many Democratic Practices'

JN3110123795 Baghdad INA in English 1120 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 31, INA—Iraq's Vice-President Taha Yasin Ramadan received here on Monday [30 October] Secretary General of the Algerian Movement for Democracy, Khalid Ben Ismeal [name as received].

During the meeting, Mr. Ramadan confirmed that the adherence showed by the Iraqi people to President Saddam Husayn in the Grand March Day will participate in fulfilling the ultimate victory on the enemies.

He added that Iraq will witness many democratic practices during the next few months among which are the elections of the National Assembly and local assemblies in the communes and districts as well as extending the people's assemblies.

Algerian secretary general expressed his extreme admiration of the intimate relation between President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people confirming that free Arabs consider his excellency as the symbol of freedom, courage and independence.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Editor Assails U.S. Policy

Faults Policy of 'Exporting' Democracy

JN2610125895 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 9 Oct 95 pp 1,6

[Article by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar: "What Does Exporting Democracy on Tank Turrets Mean?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Bill Clinton's administration sounds not only downright impertinent but also extremely naive when it declares that its duty is to spread democracy throughout the world through wars and pressure! How could a political system that is essentially based on expressing peoples' free will be exported to other countries with completely different cultures, civilizations, ideologies, and policies? Spreading democracy in this way is reminiscent of slogans, which the United States itself has fought and is still fighting strongly, such as introducing communism through revolution and exporting the Islamic revolution!

Until a few years ago, the U.S. ideological campaign had been directed against any method of exporting ideas from one people to another, whether by force or political propaganda. The U.S. logic then was clear; it implied that any political or ideological system should stem from the people's own environment and express their own free will. Conversely, exporting ideas would be no more than a means of imposing hegemony and negating peoples' freedom and willpower.

Now, however, the United States is doing exactly what communism did in the past. It is also pursuing the same method as that of exporting the Islamic revolution, which it has condemned and is still condemning to this day! Therefore, it is essential to pause a little here and wonder what the U.S. slogan of exporting democracy to other countries means and whether this method implies forcing other countries to either accept U.S. democracy or face blockade, war, and systematic ruination.

First of all, we must recall the axioms of democracy; mainly, that in its origin and spirit democracy means expressing people's free will in an atmosphere of freedom where there is no compulsion or coercion. To have democracy, you must have a free individual who is not subject to influences which force him to compromise his opinions and options and accept the opinions and options of another individual, whether he is friend or foe. Therefore, the U.S. slogan of exporting democracy is an automatic negation of the substance of democracy, because it is a democracy which does not stem from the people's free will but is imported from abroad under various, and entirely subjective, influences.

And, even if we presume the existence of certain common factors between states and peoples which help them develop common concepts on democracy, we must point out that the aforementioned policy of exporting democracy collides with an innate sentiment that has existed long before politics; namely, that the internal affairs of any people are a private matter concerning the people themselves, and that an outsider has no right to interfere in these affairs. As soon as outsiders start interfering, a complicated crisis arises; namely, that of interference, and whether it is a legitimate action or an act of aggression.

National bonds which have been forged through the millenniums are themselves averse to any kind of foreign interference. Nationalism gives only the people the right to determine the nation's crucial and internal issues, and it is up to the others, whether neighbors or friends, to respect the free will of the nation and to refrain from interfering in its affairs—hence the emergence of the concept of sovereignty as a national right of rejecting any form of foreign interference. It is on the basis of this historical fact that a concept which has prevailed since ancient times, has become a law in our modern age; namely, that regardless of their differences the people of one nation or one state must unite against the foreigner who wants to interfere in their affairs and consider such unity a national stand which cannot be compromised. Thus, the Satans of the nation must support its ruling angles when the homeland is exposed to threats by foreign Satans, just as the angels of the nation must support its ruling Satans when the homeland is exposed to a foreign threat as long as they are in power and defending it. The so-called "national consensus" in Europe during World War II is only one example of such an alliance.

In this sense, national bonds strongly reject without hesitation any kind of foreign interference in the nation's internal affairs, whether such interference takes place by political, propaganda, or cultural means. The nation must consider such interference as an encroachment on its dignity, pride, and interests. The issue of democracy becomes very sensitive when a nation is exposed to foreign interference. A nation can understand and tolerate any foreign criticism or denunciation of its policy, but it cannot understand or tolerate any foreign attempt to change its political system and replace it by another one, because it completely and radically negates the people's free will and imposes on them the will of an elite which rules another people. It is in fact double aggression; an aggression against the nation by interfering in its internal affairs, and an aggression against the nation's free will by imposing the opinion of a foreign elite and making it a basis for its life. Modern history is full of wars fought mainly to repel foreign threats and interferences. As is always the case, foreign interference to impose a new system leads to the evaporation of the substance of democracy and the subjection of millions of people to collective humiliation by forcing them to compromise their convictions. So, we must remember that true democracy is an expression of a people's free will without outside pressure.

The situation becomes more serious when military force is used to impose democracy, because one would assume that a people subjected to such interference will not accept what the outsiders want, even if some of them disagree with their government on certain issues. And if we compare the material and moral damage that is caused by a war to change a certain a regime, we will find that very often such wars lead to irreparable moral damage and massive material losses. Thus, imposing democracy by means of war is more costly and harmful than leaving an undemocratic regime alone, especially since such a regime could be reformed and changed through a relatively long political process. Resolving the problem of democracy by means of a foreign war only means systematic ruination and imperialist infiltration.

The stronger the internal resistance against the war of imposing democracy, the more indicative it is of the people's determination to back the regime which the war wants to change. If the people are against the regime they will not back it, fight in its defense, and sustain heavy losses in life and property. A dictatorial regime that is hostile to its people cannot withstand any foreign military offensive which is backed by greater capabilities than the regime has. In fact, it will collapse in a matter of a few hours or a few days, because the people will have no interest in defending it. What happened to Panama's Noriega, who was hunted down by the United States in the military invasion of his country, is one example of a regime which is detached from the people. But when the people believe that the regime truly represents them, defends their homeland and existence, and expresses their free will, then they will rally around it without any hesitation and regardless of the political and ideological differences. One such example is Iraq's resistance against the massive 30-state aggression with all its power, cover, and influences, and the maintenance of this resistance despite the general, devastating blockade, which has gone on for five years during which the people have been deprived of food and medicine. Still, they continued to defend their homeland. Would Iraq have managed to withstand such immense challenges, which even the United States would not have withstood for one month, were it not for the people's confidence in their leadership?

Another factor which ruins the democratic environment we talk about is exposing people, or some of them, to a sustained process of brainwashing to make them change their thoughts and convictions and abandon their old beliefs. For instance, a savage military war is launched against the people destroying all the bases of normal life. Then a general blockade is clamped on them in order to deprive them of everything, including food and medicine. They are also exposed to a well-planned, massive foreign propaganda campaign in order to shake up their convictions, distort the facts, and sow the seeds of anxiety and instability within their ranks. The aim of this plan is that as time passes the pressure of death, hunger, fear, insecurity, instability, and the terrible massive propaganda would force the people to reconsider their options—a situation which they would reject first, but then they would be compelled to consider whatever conditions they would accept in order to put an end to their daily misery. But, as the pressure builds up, the resistance would collapse and some individuals would be tempted to succumb to the pressure and accept the logic, terms, and ideas of the enemy in order to restore stability and security and satisfy their hunger!

This is a disturbing and unnatural psychological environment to be in, since it could lead to differences in opinion and the emergence of a group, which does not care about national or personal pride and the credibility and honor of principles, but only about how to achieve quick material benefits, while the nationalist vanguard continues to defend its intellectual, political, national, and moral principles. Since, as everyone knows, hunger knows no loyalty, the enemy behind the blockade, the military war, and propaganda campaign would expect any elections taking place under such conditions to result in the victory of his supporters who promised bread for the people!

Conditions which are created by a rancorous enemy are anomalous and extraordinary and cannot be suitable for holding elections, because the citizen will be under extreme pressure which will not help him make the free and right choice. These are the exact conditions which are sought by the imperialist forces such as the United States, which has imposed the blockade on Iraq, waged war on it, and exercised the worst and most dangerous forms of propaganda warfare in order to confuse the Iraqi people and make them abandon their national honor, dignity, and noble principles and accept suicidal terms, such as delivering Iraq to become a humble satellite for the United States.

In light of the above, any follower of developments can see very clearly that it is possible to transform democracy from a system where the people rule themselves by themselves, to a system where the people elect, under the aforementioned pressure factors, rulers whom they despise, because they will be no more than tools through which the imperialist enemy will rule the country. Starvation, disease, and continuous war would exhaust some people and lead to a democracy of proteges which would be no more than a formal cover for a new colonial rule, dwarfing the country and turning it into a marginal force.

The democracy of proteges is not only a formal cover for disgrace, but also a step toward generalizing the democracy of armies. The United Stats has openly announced that it is the leader of the world and that all countries must accept its leadership without resistance. This means that the United States will not allow any state the freedom of choice at home or abroad, but will force it to submit to its totalitarian domination by using its armies and those of its allies to invade these countries and impose its brand of democracy on them; the democracy of armies which complements the democracy of proteges.

We have before us several U.S. scenarios, which have become established facts and spread the democracy of proteges sought by the United States. In eastern Europe, elections were held hurriedly following the collapse of communism. Certain elements which can best be described as proteges won these elections, because these old communists turned against communism and adopted the worst forms of capitalism. They also advocated subservience to the United States. They won in the years 1990-1993, because the masses then were still under the enormous effect of a brainwashing process, the pressure of the sudden devastating coup, and the dream of a paradise.

Thus, we saw leading Marxists becoming advocates of capitalism, which they fought for more than 40 years. Who does such a thing other than the protege who lacks the intellect, the willpower, and the conscience? But the years 1993-1995 witnessed the bursting of U.S. balloons and the exposure of its deceptive operations in the world. Experience has shown that capitalism is the real source of basic evils in society where poverty replaces self-sufficiency, crime replaces security, and corruption replaces level-headedness. Social parasites suddenly emerged with billions. Thus, it became clear to all that U.S. capitalism was a big trap and suicide. As a result, the majority of the people in eastern Europe went back to fighting capitalism and advocating socialism.

The biggest protege of all was Mikhail Gorbachev, who carried on his back the dynamite that blew up the Soviet Union. He planted that dynamite in every part of that regime and then set it off. But he could not remain in power due to this traitorous role which lacked conscience, honor, and credibility. So, he rightly deserved the nickname protege, which is nothing compared to other scornful nicknames which the citizens of the former Soviet Union have given him, such as "traitor."

As for Iraq, which has gone through so much suffering than anyone else could have endured—some of this suffering would have made many people in the United States sell their own wives and children in order to secure food—the reaction of Iraqis has not been like that of a people who are without history, or of human masses which have appeared on the stage of events by accident like the American population. The Iraqi people held to their history, the principles they fought for, and the high values they believed in, and were determined to defend their history and honor. They neither bowed down to imperialism nor were they deceived by its propaganda media, but they maintained their heroic resistance, enduring sacrifices which no other nation had faced in history. And now, we must ask: Why have the Iraqi people resisted and the Soviet Union collapsed? In answering this question, we must not overlook two basic facts: First, the deeper their historical roots and the stronger and older their culture, the more likely it is for any people to possess a system of values which will not only help them cope with crucial challenges, but also control their own natural instincts. Second, the Iraqi people have resisted and will continue to resist, because they realize that the imperialist plan is aimed at not only hurting Iraq, but also exposing it to devastating civil wars, where millions of women, children, and men would be crushed to death and Iraq would be divided. Therefore, resistance becomes less costly when compared with what Iraqi people would have paid if they did not resist, maintain their unity, and stand firm behind their leader. This is the only road to salvation and to foiling the plan of starting civil wars and dividing Iraq.

Says U.S. Seeks To 'Destroy' Nation

JN3110094995 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 10 Oct 95 pp 1,3

["Viewpoint" column by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar: "Why Did the United States Want to Destroy Iraq and How Did it Fail?]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Occasionally, historians, researchers, and strategists face situations and phenomena which they find difficult to explain or apply to their established standards. So, they admit failure and say: This situation is unusual and difficult to explain, or it could be construed in such and such a way. Iraq's steadfastness in face of the United States, after it has become a blood-thirsty dictatorship with the whole world behind it, is in itself a historic victory, which can only be denied by the ignorant and sick-minded whose hearts are filled with hatred and feeling of revenge.

The war which took place between Iraq on the one hand, and the United States and 33 other states on the other, is considered a world war by all the standards which were used to determine the two world wars. Therefore, no one absolutely must be under any delusion that the Iraqi forces had planned to invade Washington, London, or Paris. No one also must be under any delusion that Iraq had expected to route the coalition forces which were massed in the region, because the physical balance of power was completely in favor of the U.S. dictatorship. This was why Iraq's declared aims were clear and definite. Iraq said: We will prevent the United States from invading Iraq and imposing an agent regime on it. That was in reply to what James Baker, secretary of state of the war criminal George Bush, said to Tariq 'Aziz on the eve of the aggression, that "the United States will return Iraq to the pre-industrial age and set up another Iraqi Government."

Iraq's victory lies strictly in its steadfastness and preservation of its political structure, while the defeat of the United States and its allies is embodied by their inability to return Iraq to the pre-industrial age and their obvious, miserable failure to change the Iraqi Government, although the United States and its allies devoted all their means of power to that end.

Iraq has triumphed through its steadfastness, reconstruction and building, and preservation of its political line and symbols of its national honor, because it proceeded from two facts. The first fact is that the "system of values" held by a historical people such as the Iraqis constitutes a strong solid base which can endure pressures and challenges which human instincts cannot withstand. By this "system of values," we mean the psychological and intellectual makeup of the Iraqi individual which governs his behavior and firm options, especially in those moments when the demands of the sense of survival clash with these values and the Iraqi voluntarily and consciously chooses to suppress his natural instincts, including his love for life, when he believes that surrender to these instincts will be viewed as a disgrace according to his values, traditions, and principles. [passage omitted]

The second fact is that the Iraqi people, who have resisted, remained steadfast, and succeeded in keeping Iraq united and strong, have also done so out of a clear awareness that the United States does not only want to change the political system, but also to achieve other more serious aims. Had the U.S. aim been just to change the political system, it would have created a "model system" in northern Iraq, which is under its control, in order to attract Iraqis and others. But we have seen that the autonomy which President Saddam Husayn has established in northern Iraq has turned into a state of chaos and civil war dominated by gangsters, murder, and organized crime. Can anyone convince a single sensible person that the United States cannot force the Barzanis and Talabanis to stop their fighting if it wants?

The disintegration and civil war taking place in northern Iraq is what the United States wants for the whole of Iraq. What is required is the burning of Iraq and the annihilation of millions of Iraqis. This cannot be achieved by democracy, even if it is the democracy of proteges. It calls for spreading the rule of armed mafia, because this rule alone would maintain war, fighting, and thievery in society until millions of Iraqis are killed and someone comes forth to serve as a pliable tool in the hands of imperialism.

Iraq is not the only U.S. target for civil war in the name of democracy. Other states which are not so immune as Iraq have become victims of U.S. criminal plans. Take the example of Yugoslavia, where the fires of bloody, destructive civil wars are still ablaze. These wars could have been stopped with a U.S. decision, had the United States wanted. But it does not want that. The United States wants the Yugoslavia wars to continue so as to spark other wars in the Balkans. The United States, which massed 600,000 troops against Iraq for the sake of "saving Kuwait," could have massed 100,000 troops to stop the war in Yugoslavia. The talk that Yugoslavia is not an oil-rich country and therefore the United States will not be bothered to send the armies is very true, but this is not the only reason for its non-intervention. The United States wants to start civil wars in eastern Europe and the Balkans. Therefore, it insists on maintaining and entrenching the war in Yugoslavia. U.S. insistence on starting a civil war in Iraq — as admitted by the head of U.S. intelligence and other senior officials who said that "any U.S. attempt to change the Iraqi regime would not provide a guarantee for the success of its replacement and that an outbreak of civil war would be more likely due to the resistance to an attempt to change the regime" — we say, U.S. insistence on sparking a civil war in Iraq can only be interpreted as the outcome of several premises:

The first premise is that the United States considers control of Iraqi oil a precondition for its control and colonization of the world. Thus, the "U.S. world leadership" plan, which Bush talked about and Clinton mentioned only recently under pressure from the Republicans, would fail as long as Iraq remains steadfast, which means that the destruction of Iraq is one of America's major world aims.

The second premise is that the "Iraqi problem" has not been resolved by destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, although it is the only condition for lifting the economic embargo under UN Security Council Resolution 687. The real Iraqi problem, as far as the United States is concerned, has become the manpower factor, not the military factor. During their work in Iraq, the inspection committees and the United States discovered that Iraq did not enhance its military capabilities by relying on imports and the transfer of technology. The fact is, the Iraqi scientific and technological brain, which has grown, developed, and become more complex during the war with Iran, has become capable of creating, inventing, and making very complex weapons and equipment.

Therefore, elimination of the weapons of mass destruction, which has already been fulfilled, is no longer a major objective. The new problem is to get rid of the scientific and technological cadre in Iraq; a cadre which runs in hundreds, and in fact thousands. The technological capabilities of thousands of Iraqi scientists and engineers are adequate to rebuild a strong and advanced Iraq after the removal of the blockade. This situation conflicts completely with the U.S. wish, which is to keep Iraq a small, dwarfish country forever, especially since its world strategy is based on preventing other states from possessing any form of sophisticated technological expertise of dual use.

How is the United States resolving the problem of the Iraqi manpower factor? In the early years of the cease fire, enormous attempts were made to buy Iraqi scientists and encourage them to leave Iraq. However, the sense of Iraqi national patriotism was a major factor in making Iraqi scientists prefer a life of sacrifice than a life of joy. U.S. temptations to the scientists were followed by threats. U.S. media spoke of American plans to assassinate some Iraqi scientists. But, Iraqi scientists were not intimidated and did not so much as bat an eyelid at these threats. Threats work with U.S. scientists and others, but not with a scientist who respects himself and belongs to a country as ancient as Iraq. Thus, the United States chose to divide Iraq and start a civil war which would continue for years and kill millions of Iraqis in order to get rid of the Iraqi scientists and their capabilities.

The third premise is that the Zionist entity has realized since 1990 that it is facing a blocked, dark future after the world has discovered that Iraq has neutralized the Israeli nuclear weapon by making the bichemical weapon and thus returned the conflict to its Arab-Zionist context where Arabs have absolute superiority. This has made the Zionists realize that the existence of a strong Iraq with a strategic deterrent would be a factor for the demise and removal of Israel without war through the existence of absolute Arab superiority in all fields.

This fact clearly explains the U.S. motives of waging an allout direct war against Iraq and preventing Israel from officially taking part in this war. It was because Iraq was big and powerful to be challenged by Israel. Furthermore, Israel's official participation in the war against Iraq would have revealed the truth to the Arabs and Muslims that the attempt to destroy Iraq was for the purpose of guaranteeing the future of Israel and killing the Arab-Islamic dream about the emergence of a scientifically and technologically advanced Arab-Islamic force which is strong enough to rally the Islamic World around it.

The existence of big Iraqi scientific and technological capabilities does not only cancel or neutralize the Israeli nuclear deterrent factor, but also cancels what is more important than that; namely, the role that was charted for Israel under the Zionist plan to assume the leadership and plan the future of the entire region. The Zionist plan sees Israel as the "genius brain" which can turn the Middle East into a region of peace and prosperity and make Arab funds and resources serve this "Jewish genius brain." Under this plan, it is impermissible for any Arab country, even if it is friendly to Israel, to posses any scientific and technological base which can ensure any form of self-dependence, because that would open a crack on the Israeli wall, weaken it, and even cancel it.

Thus, the emergence of Iraq as a country with an army of scientists and engineers means to Israel in particular the cancellation of its singular leading role and its return it to its real size. This would bring about the collapse of the entire Zionist plan to make the Middle East a region for Israeli influence without any dispute.

Dividing Iraq and starting a civil war in it is an old Israeli aim, which the United States is trying to fulfill on Israel's behalf, because any direct action by the latter would rally the Arabs and Muslims against it and compel their rulers to support Iraq. Besides, Israel is in no position to challenge Iraq militarily. Therefore, the U.S. confrontation of Iraq entails a mean tactic to neutralize the Arabs and Muslims and to exploit their participation in order to abort the most significant Arab and Islamic awakening plan. If we look at what is taking place in Iraq today, we will see clearly that Arabs and Muslims had contributed to the military strike against Iraq and served Israel, which has become the sole possessor of the weapon of mass destruction, which was neutralized by Saddam Husayn's bichemical weapon. They also continue the blockade, which is originally Arab and Islamic, because the states surrounding Iraq are Arab or Islamic. This has led to the continued disruption of Iraq's capabilities and permitted Israel to dictate its terms and leadership without dispute!

What is most regretful is that several Arab governments have openly declared that the United Nations must destroy the remaining Iraqi weapons and set up guarantees which will prevent Iraq from repossessing the weapons which were destroyed! Other Arabs said that getting rid of Iraqi weapons is a precondition for the security and stability of the Middle East. As for Israel, it is no longer a threat to these people, although it possesses nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. They no longer demand its disarmament or link Iraqi disarmament to Israeli disarmament. It is as if what is required is to deprive the Arab side of its deterrent capabilities so that Israel alone would possess the possibility to control and impose terms! Is this what this type of Arabs want?

Now, would this have been possible were it not for the tactic of keeping Israel in the background and making the United States face Iraq? Had Israel fought the war against Iraq, would the whole Arab and Islamic situation be as it is today fully neutralized, or would we have witnessed the continuation of the biggest, broadest, deepest, and most serious Arab popular uprising in our modern age, which occurred during the 30-state aggression on Iraq and stopped with the declaration of the cease-fire in 1991?

No one can deny the basic fact that an Israeli strike against Iraq — that is, if Israel were in a position to do that — would have massed hundreds of millions of Arabs and Muslims behind Iraq. It would have been a motive for their unification against the official and clear enemy of every true Muslim and Arab.

Due to the effect of the aforementioned facts, we saw the United States insist on playing the role of "defender of Kuwait" and international law in order to deceive the world and the Arabs and make them accept the strike against and siege of Iraq under the slogan of achieving "withdrawal from Kuwait." The United States then exploited Arab acceptance of the strike against Iraq by expanding its aims to include Israel's aims, which are to destroy the Iraqi infrastructure, eliminate its scientific and technological capabilities, shake up its political and psychological structure, keep it divided for several decades, and thus usher in the "Israeli era" without any obstacles.

And now we see the real game being played clearly. Iraq has withdrawn from Kuwait and recognized its borders and its weapons of mass destruction have been destroyed. Iraq has also fulfilled the basic UN Security Council resolutions and accepted a long-term armament monitoring regime under Resolution 715. Yet, U.S. hostility toward Iraq and its people has increased and deepened. Every day, the United States invents new excuses in order to expand the torture of Iraqis and to shake up the bases of their society. The astonishing thing is that some Arab rulers, who fought Iraq under the excuse of getting it out of Kuwait, have failed to recognize that the logic which they adopted officially to justify their position on defending Kuwait's sovereignty is the same one which they should have used in defending Iraq, whose sovereignty is being violated daily, whose northern region is being severed officially and practically by force, and whose sons are killed by the thousands daily due to the blockade. Iraq's strategic weapons have been destroyed and the empire of evil has gone beyond the UN mandate by destroying its nonmilitary plants and trying to divide it into three states!

All that is happening while some Arab rulers are watching and even taking part in it as if they have been aware all along that the original aim of the strike against Iraq was not to evict it from Kuwait, but to destroy the only Arab and Islamic hope for the emergence of a major powerful and advanced Arab Islamic power! Were it not so, they would not have remained silent and demanded that Iraq dry up even the life blood running in the veins of its sons!

These are the motives and results of the tactic of keeping Israel in the background and making the United States and its Arab allies fight Iraq for the sake of Kuwait! Whoever says that he is not against Iraq and its people must prove that now by deeds not words. Otherwise, the ordinary observer would not help reach the sad conclusion that some Arabs are cooperating with the United States, the first and most dangerous enemy of the Arabs and Muslims, and Zionism in order to crush the Arab hope for awakening and progress.

Therefore, the United States does not want democracy and stability in Iraq. What it wants is to torture the Iraqis, kill millions of them, insult their honor, hurt their dignity, and divide their homeland. These objectives are no longer in doubt, but have become resolutions which the United States wants to impose by force. Were it not for the Iraqi people's resistance, we would have seen the biggest catastrophe in the history of the Arabs and Muslims.

The two final questions are: Why the referendum now? And, how do we emerge victorious from this serious historical conflict?

U.S. Urged To Hold Dialogue With Baghdad

JN2710180695 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Oct 95 p 6

[Article by Dr. Muhammad al-Da'mi: "The United States Between the Reality of Dialogue and the Continuation of Destruction"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now that leader President Saddam Husayn has, without a doubt, won the Iraqis' confidence and love for another seven years of constitutional heroic leadership, the Western empires have found themselves with just two options: Either respond to Iraq's honest and continuous calls for constructive dialogue — which will put an end to the vicious circle in which they found themselves without reaching their imperialistic ambition, represented by subjugating Iraq — or continue with the nervous trend, which characterizes the policy of these empires vis-a-vis Iraq and its leadership, and which will not serve the interests of both disputing parties.

There is no doubt that continuing to undermine relations with Iraq and its people is an easy job for Western empires. But this time this will cost them a great deal. This is because the continued aggression against the bread of the Iraqis and their basic needs are unjustified and a form of robbery. Also, they lack the justifications which existed before the referendum. The West's prediction that there is an unbridged gap between the leadership and people in Iraq has given these empires an excuse to call on the Iraqi people to disengage themselves from their leadership before the referendum. This referendum, however, has removed the ground on which the Western stand has based its argument on. It is no longer accepted. It is correct that Western empires are capable of fabricating additional justifications and media games—something they are good at. But this course will become, as of now, destructive to the interests of these empires themselves. Building walls around Iraq and preventing it from leading a normal life will inflict losses on Iraq for some time—losses which are not measured by years or decades, but by generations. Therefore, the U.S. policy planners should be aware that every Iraqi child says that the United States and Britain are behind our deprivation and suffering. They should also know the danger of this collective psychological repercussion on the Iraqi mind, and the size of efforts required by the successors in the administration of U.S. politics to improve America's image and civilization in the hearts and minds of Iraqis. Iraq today places the United States before a historic responsibility—not only toward the Iraqis, but also toward the long-term results of the continued American and West European efforts to starve and coerce the Iraqis. Thus, President Bill Clinton should not turn a blind eye to these practical facts that appeared after the referendum. He must face these facts with realism, courage, and national American responsibility, and must try to get rid of the attractions of the upcoming presidential elections and free himself of the blackout imposed by the Zionist lobby on the highest and most dangerous seat in the United States.

Responding to Iraq's genuine call for dialogue will not cost the Americans their reputation or policy in the region, because such a response would be based on logical justifications that are acceptable at the regional and international levels. Furthermore, an announcement by the U.S. Administration on opening a new and good chapter of dialogue with Iraq based on the results of the referendum would be a wise announcement, not just in the sense of its timing and reality, but also in its long-term ramifications. In other words, such an announcement would be a serious attempt to wipe away the ugliness that distorted the image of the United States and its civilization, as well as the erosion which has tarnished this image in Iraq, throughout the Arab homeland and the neighboring Islamic countries.

I am not in a position to submit proposals to the U.S. Administration. I am conveying a view which this administration's staff are not aware of. It is not an outside view of what is happening in Iraq and the Arab homeland from an unaffiliated position. It is a view of a justified popular hatred against the U.S. empire and against the civilization which the United States is trying to present to the peoples of the world as the civilization of the new world. However, if the U.S. Administration chooses to continue to sabotage its relations with Iraq and the Arab nation, then this will be easy to do. Building, on the other hand, requires effort, pain, and dreams. The Iraqis have chosen their path in a clear, popular way. The U.S. Administration must be realistic and practical in confronting clear facts by abandoning a policy that can no longer serve it or its interests in the Arab homeland. Moreover, it must respect the collective will of Iraqis. This is one of the rationales and arguments dealing with respect for human and peoples' right to self-determination. Besides, if the U.S. Administration frees itself from the Iraq complex and from the dilemma it put itself in, then this will be of great value in terms of rebuilding the United States' image in the region. Furthermore, this will open the way for it to benefit from the prospects of a relaxation, something that has remained elusive to the Arab homeland for more than half a decade.

Ross Said To Blame for Deadlock in Syrian Talks

TA0111110095 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew 1 Nov 95 p 1

[Commentary by Arye Dayan: "Everybody Is Angry With Ross"]

[FBIS Translated Text] These are tough times for Dennis Ross. Two days ago, he was in Damascus when Warren Christopher met with President Hafiz al-Asad. Yesterday morning, he was in Amman, where he updated Shim'on Peres on the conversations in Damascus. Close to midnight, he went to Rabin's office at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. Even after all these exchanges, however, there is no certainty that the negotiations between Israel and Syria will be rescued from their current deadlock.

It is not the rushing around between capitals that makes the American coordinator's days so hard. His problem is that both Israel and Syria regard him as one of those chiefly — if not solely — responsible for the deadlock. The man, who only months ago enjoyed the trust and appreciation of all sides, has since July — when the negotiations became bogged down — become the main object of their anger.

The chiefs of staff of both armies, Hikmat al-Shihabi and Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq, met in Washington in July. The meetings were preceded by a Ross shuttle between Syria and Israel. It was during that shuttle that the negotiating format was decided, with the approval of al-Asad and Rabin: At first, there would be a meeting between the chiefs of staff, then one between officers-experts, and finally negotiations between ambassadors in the United States.

At one of the meetings in Damascus, during the negotiations on the format, the salient question was brought up: Which issues would be discussed at the negotiations in general, and by the experts in particular. The Americans told Syria that Israel wants to discuss the positioning of ground early warning stations on the Golan Heights. Al-Asad's response was unequivocal: Under no circumstances; no way. Miraculously, however, al-Asad's stand softened between the presidential palace in Damascus and the prime minister's office in Jerusalem. Ross told Rabin that "there will be some difficulty in raising the early warning stations for discussion." He did not tell Rabin that al-Asad rejected outright any discussion of the issue.

The result: Shahaq told al-Shihabi that Israel wanted to include the early warning stations on the agenda for the experts' talks. When al-Asad heard that, he was furious. Since then, he has both boycotted Ross and refused to hold the expert meetings. Now, both sides blame Ross: Al-Asad calls Ross "little Rabin" and believes he was cheated; Israel says that had Ross presented al-Asad's position correctly in his conversation with Rabin he might have prevented the current predicament.

Whatever the case, Ross is still running about to undo the damage and al-Asad is still angry. On Saturday, al-Asad met with the EU troika ministers and presented his stand. In reports reaching Jerusalem, it appears that Italian Foreign Minister Suzanna Agnelli, for whom this was a first meeting with al-Asad, left stunned. I have never met such an intransigent statesman, she said.

Rabin Not Hopeful for Syria Talks in U.S.

TA3110132595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this morning, the prime minister again said he is not pinning much hope on the results of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talks in Damascus. At the same time, he is awaiting Dennis Ross, who will be coming to brief Rabin on the talks. Our Knesset correspondent Yo'el Nir reports:

[Begin recording] [Nir] The meeting, so we were told, was quiet this time. Coming out of the meeting, the prime minister was asked for his reaction to the recent statement by the Syrian minister of information who said that if no peace is made between Israel and Syria, war will break out.

[Rabin] I believe that making war threats is a dangerous path to take. We are not at peace with Syria; we only have a disengagement agreement between us. We are building the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to be a strong army. I believe that given the current circumstances, the threat of war — although not entirely gone — has diminished. I would not suggest that anyone, including Syria, conduct peace negotiations under the impression of remarks such as those recently made in Syria.

[Nir] As for yesterday's talks in Damascus by the U.S. secretary of state, the prime minister told the Knesset committee that he is not very hopeful. Coming out of the meeting, he once again said that he had refused to accept a Syrian demand that Israel go back on some of its demands to allow the next stage of negotiations, namely the officers' talks.

[Rabin] If the Syrians find a way to resume the talks without harming past agreements while maintaining the procedure that has prevailed so far in the talks during all of their stages, we would not delay them — the delay comes from the Syrian side — and we would continue the talks. Therefore, if we receive a response that meets our demands, I would see no reason why not to continue the talks. [end recording]

Further on Rabin Remarks

TA3110154795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says Damascus has turned into an unprecedented center of terrorism. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has also started establishing itself there, and this affects the peace process.

Mr. Rabin noted that he does not recommend undermining Syria's military power, adding that the next war — if such a war occurs — will be different from all previous wars, because our enemies will be able to attack not only on the front lines, but also on the home front. The prime minister emphasized that he is ready to hold negotiations with Syria, but not at any price or with any condition. Rabin said that he would like to reach a peace agreement sometime before the Knesset elections, but that he cannot say that this is what will actually happen. Mr. Rabin was addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 31 October carries a similar report by Hadar Vismonsky, which adds that, speaking to the Knesset committee members, "Rabin made it clear today for the first time, that the peace agreement with Egypt is not a precedent that would have an impact on the agreement with Syria, with which we have special geographic circumstances, as he put it.

["Referring to East Jerusalem, Rabin said that his office has decided on a new rule according to which he will not meet foreign officials of the level of minister or above if they visit Orient House in East Jerusalem."]

Peres Says Talks With Syria Not 'Ditched'

TA3110093295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Peres said that in the wake of Secretary of State Christopher's meeting with President al-Asad in Damascus yesterday, talks with Syria are possible. In Amman, Minister Peres told our correspondent Arye Gus that the possibility of a resumption of the talks still needs to be looked into, but he has no doubt that the negotiations have not been ditched.

The foreign minister said he cannot say how the negotiations will be resumed, but he believes all the sides agree that they have to continue at the point from which they were halted, that is, the officers talks.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Christopher's entourage updated elements in Jerusalem on the talks with al-Asad and it transpired that mechanisms to enable the talks between Israel and Syria to resume within several weeks were decided on there. The Americans noted that no real progress was made and the gaps remain large, but ways to resume the negotiations were decided on in the meeting.

Jerusalem believes that in the wake of the Damascus meeting the contacts with the Syrians will be renewed within one month at the level of ambassadors and senior officers.

Says Syrian 'Surprises' Possible

TA0111092295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Me'ir Einstein on 1 November; place not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Einstein] Mr. Peres, don't you fear that the stalemate in the negotiations with the Syrians will ruin the achievements of the Amman summit?

[Peres] No. The Amman conference was held after a U.S. Congress decision on Jerusalem, following accusations in the al-Shaqaqi affair, and following a Syrian attempt to stop the train. Also, the Egyptian stand was not very clear at first. Yet contrary to expectations, the conference went exceptionally well, and it ended very well — with the first statement by Arab countries, which were in the majority at the event, to lift the Arab boycott on Israel. What else would you expect to take place? I think that, despite some people's derisive remarks, a new Middle East is emerging before our very eyes.

[Einstein] Perhaps the Amman summit will inspire the Syrians to be more flexible and to resume the talks?

[Peres] Look, Syrian logic is very hard to understand. The whole business is run by one man, who keeps his cards very close to the chest. Surprises, both positive and negative, can be expected. No one can tell how the Syrian president will act. He has waited 18 years. Was it wise? I doubt it. The situation in Syria is such that a large portion of its budget is still allocated for defense, and the Syrian economy is not one of the world's most prosperous. In addition to these factors, there may be domestic impediments of which we are not aware. I have heard occasional reports of such things, both in connection with ethnic problems and with various stands by the military. I do not know.

In any event, we are determined to keep our options open while at the same time maintaining a realistic outlook. We are seriously and genuinely interested in completing the Middle East peace process. It will transform the lives of Israeli mothers and children, the life of the entire State of Israel. We cannot live amid constant preparations for yet another war; there is a time when a serious attempt for a normal life should be made, and that is what we are doing.

[Einstein] Mr. Peres, judging by the reports from Warren Christopher's and Dennis Ross' talks in Damascus, would you say there is any chance at all that the negotiations will be resumed any time soon?

[Peres] It is not inconceivable. It is possible, but nothing concrete has been finalized yet. Like us, the Syrians would probably like to keep their negotiating options open, but no dramatic changes have occurred. There is however the fact that the Syrians do not view the negotiations as being over; I mean, they still want to negotiate.

[Einstein] Shouldn't Israel demand that Damascus cease hosting terrorist cadres as a precondition for the resumption of negotiations?

[Peres] We have always avoided presenting conditions that would give a veto right to terrorist organizations. In addition, just as we would refuse to accept Syrian preconditions, we should beware of imposing preconditions of our own — unless we want to kill the negotiations. The Syrians say: Okay, we will address these issues when we reach the arrangements stage. I do not justify this approach, of course, and Syria is still on the list of terror- abetting countries.

[Einstein] .Unless the negotiations with the Syrians are resumed by the end of 1995, will there be any point in resuming them in the middle of an election year?

[Peres] Yes, definitely. A democratic state should not place elections above its national interests. In my view, winning peace is no less important than winning the elections. We were put in office for a four-year term, and we are duty-bound to make full use of every minute, to serve the nation in matters of peace and security. There is no room for hesitation. We will not adhere to timeworn conventions.

[Einstein] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and a good morning to you.

[Peres] Good morning.

Rabin Warns UK's Rifkind Not To Visit PLO Offices

NC3110190895 Paris AFP in English
1712 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Oct 31 (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Tuesday [31 October] warned British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind not to visit the PLO's unofficial headquarters in annexed east Jerusalem during a forthcoming trip.

"We believe that foreign personalities who have ministerial rank should not make official visits to Orient House. It is a question of principle," Rabin told the parliamentary foreign affairs and defence committee. "The United States has acknowledged this point, but the countries of the European Union have rejected it," he added.

Rifkind begins on Sunday a six-day tour of the Middle East during which he will travel to Israel and the Palestinian territories as well as Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Egypt. He pledged Tuesday to take a "very, very tough" stand against Islamic extremists seeking to use Britain as a base for terrorist activities.

Israeli reports claimed that Ramadan 'Abdallah Shalah, the new leader of Islamic Jihad, was based in Britain from the late 1980s until last year, coordinating contacts in Syria and Gaza.

Last week Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, who was heading an EU delegation, visited Orient House in annexed east Jerusalem, ignoring Israeli protests.

Israel and the PLO are due to open talks on the future status of Jerusalem in May. Israel, which captured and annexed the east part in 1967, bans the Palestinians from any political activity in the holy city. It has declared Jerusalem its "eternal and undivided" capital, but the Palestinians want the eastern sector as the capital of any future state.

Meanwhile Rabin said he hoped "Christmas in Bethlehem would be under the rule of the Palestinian Authority."

The Israeli troop redeployment on the West Bank set out in the September 28 Israel-PLO autonomy accord "will depend on the laying down of diversionary roads" for the Jewish settlers to use to avoid the Palestinian towns. He said the roads were being built steadily and should be finished by the end of the year except in Hebron, where troops will remain to protect 400 settlers living among 120,000 Palestinians.

Rabin Denies Plan To Finalize Borders by Mar

*NC3110163295 Paris AFP in English
1456 GMT 31 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Oct 31 (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin aims to go into the November 1996 general election with a draft accord on the final borders of a Palestinian entity, an Israeli weekly reported Tuesday [31 October].

The army, meanwhile, wants to renegotiate some of the West Bank redeployment maps signed with the PLO.

The JERUSALEM REPORT said the prime minister wants to launch negotiations with the self-rule authority on the final status of the Palestinian territories as early as March. But Rabin's spokeswoman Aliza Goren, contacted by AFP, denied the report as "false."

The prime minister announced in parliament earlier this month that Israel plans to annex parts of the West Bank, especially around Jerusalem, in the north along the Israeli border, and in the Jordan Valley.

According to the JERUSALEM REPORT quoting sources close to the premier, he hopes an accord in principle on the future Palestinian borders would quash criticism of the West Bank autonomy accord signed on September 28.

Rabin has said the future Palestinian entity would be "less than a state," while the Palestinians insist on a state of their own with annexed east Jerusalem as its capital. Five years of interim Palestinian autonomy were launched in Gaza and the West Bank enclave of Jericho in May 1994. Under the September 28 accord, autonomy is to be extended to West Bank towns by the end of this year. Hebron, where 400 Jews live among 120,000 Palestinians, has been ruled a special case and Israeli troops are to stay on.

An Israeli military official revealed Tuesday that the army wanted to renegotiate some of the maps signed with the PLO as part of the West Bank deal.

Chief-of-staff General Amnon Shahak has detected several "errors" which emerged when comparing the maps to the reality on the ground, the official told the daily JERUSALEM POST. As examples, the military official said a by-pass road for Jewish settlers crossed a zone which was to be handed over to Palestinian control, like an old Jewish cemetery in Hebron that is to be supervised by Israel.

Sixteen Palestinian homes lie in the path of another planned by- pass in Hebron, the newspaper added.

Israel Denies PA Filed for al-Shaqaqi Gaza Burial

*TA3110132995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1200 GMT 31 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad Yusuf Dahlan, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service in Gaza, has said that the restrictions Israel imposed on Gaza are harming the economic situation of its residents.

Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi, who was murdered in Malta on 26 October, will be buried tomorrow in a refugee camp outside Damascus.

A leaflet the Islamic Jihad disseminated in Gaza says that the Palestinian Authority [PA] announced that Israel had banned bringing al-Shaqaqi's body for burial in Gaza.

Israeli security sources, however, said that the PA has never filed an official request on this matter.

Peace Watch Claims PA Water Authority Violation

*TA3010112595 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 30 Oct 95 p 2*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Contrary to the terms of the Oslo accords, the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) is operating in Jerusalem, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is funding its activities there, Peace Watch revealed yesterday.

Peace Watch, which monitors compliance with the accords, said the Water Resources Action Program (WRAP), which is funded by the UNDP, was taken over recently by the PWA. The presence in Jerusalem of any Palestinian Authority institutions, such as the PWA, constitutes a violation of the agreements.

The PWA was established in April to manage Palestinian water affairs. According to Peace Watch, there is ample evidence indicating that WRAP, which was founded in 1993 with help from the UNDP to provide technical advice and strategic planning on Palestinian water issues, has since been absorbed by the PWA.

The monitoring group said it had obtained a copy of a paper entitled "The Formation of the Palestinian National Water Authority" that was delivered at a symposium at Bi'r Zayt University early last month. According to the paper, WRAP was recently taken over by the PWA.

Peace Watch said that Fadl Qawwash, deputy head of the PWA, confirmed in a telephone conversation that WRAP is now part of the PWA, and that it continues to receive UNDP funding.

Qawwash was abroad yesterday and no one else in the PWA office would comment on the allegations.

Settlers To Disrupt PA Elections, 'Arafat Visit

TA0111074595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The heads of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are considering an action plan designed to disrupt the elections for the Palestinian Authority Council [PA] in East Jerusalem. Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman has learned that according to a proposal drafted by council spokesman Aharon Domb, settlers and right-wing activists will demonstrate near polling places in East Jerusalem. They will try to prevent voters from reaching the voting sites and hinder the arrival of the international observers, who are supposed to oversee the elections.

Settlement leaders also discussed another proposal calling for an ongoing demonstration at Rachel's Tomb and for preparing to disrupt Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Bethlehem during Christmas. The proposal has not yet received approval, but our correspondent notes that it has the support of many council members.

Arabs Offered Compensation for Confiscated Land

TA3110195095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel proposes to compensate Arabs in the West Bank whose land has been confiscated for paving the bypass roads. Security sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that this proposal is aimed at minimizing the protests in the territories over the confiscation of land.

The Palestinian Authority claims that in the interim accord it has not agreed that land be confiscated for the purpose of paving the bypass roads. Our correspondent notes, however, that Israel has made it clear to the Palestinians that without confiscating land it will be impossible to pave the bypass roads and complete the redeployment.

Honduras To Move Embassy to Jerusalem

TA3110132195 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 31 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by the political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Honduran Government has notified the Israeli Foreign Ministry that it intends to move its embassy to Jerusalem. The Nicaraguan Government is also scheduled to announce the placement of its embassy in Jerusalem.

The move to Jerusalem does not come in the wake of the recent events in Washington, but is due to the fact that the Foreign Ministry is about to close down the Israeli representation in Honduras because of budget cuts.

Two other embassies moved to Mevasseret Ziyyon after the Foreign Ministry had announced plans to close the embassies in their countries due to budget cuts. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Praises 'Warm Peace' With Israel

TA3110193795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] King Husayn says the Amman conference has scored many achievements and that Jordan and Israel have acted together as partners in peace. In a special interview to our correspondent Arye Gus, King Husayn noted that when the results of the conference are made public, it will be proven that many achievements have been accomplished. King Husayn emphasized that a full and warm peace exists between Israel and Jordan, a peace that reflects the overwhelming will of the majorities in both countries.

Prime Minister, Peres Discuss Regional Projects

JN3110160195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in his office in the Prime Ministry today. The meeting was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti.

The meeting reviewed regional projects that were discussed during Amman economic summit. The prime minister stressed that Jordan considers economic progress basic for the success of the peace process so that the peoples of the region will feel the benefits from the investments opportunities in the region.

The prime minister also emphasized that comprehensive and just peace should be realized in the region in a way that secures the legitimate rights of all parties.

Peres expressed appreciation of the distinguished Jordanian efforts to prepare for the Amman economic summit, which contributed actively in making the conference successful and in realizing its objectives. Discussions also dealt with the Jordanian-Israeli agreements in accordance with the peace treaty, in addition to the regional projects in which Jordan and Israel take part.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, Jordanian ambassador to Israel; Dr. Basim 'Awadallah from the Prime Ministry; Shim'on Shamir, Israeli ambassador in Amman; and Ya'ir Biran, ambassador at the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Prince Hasan Sums Up Progress in Israel Treaty

TA2710170195 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Oct 95 p 2

["Special" interview with Crown Prince Hasan by 'Oded Granot at the Royal Palace in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Granot] Your Excellency, yesterday was the first anniversary of the peace treaty signed between our two countries. Could you please give us a brief interim evaluation?

[Hasan] I think we have made impressive progress in terms of getting to know each other. We have a clear and effective agreement, and the challenge we face is how to entrench the political and economic achievements. It seems to me we need more time to digest the agreement.

[Granot] As a man who favored signing a peace agreement with Israel, the word is that you felt immensely relieved when the agreement was signed; that you calmed down, as if you had thrown off a heavy burden.

[Hasan] That is a very accurate description. Nevertheless, calming down does not mean complacency. Today, one year after the signing of the treaty, I feel even more eager to solidify what we have achieved.

[Granot] Are you occasionally disappointed that most Jordanians support peace but do not support normalization?

[Hasan] Peace and normalization complement each other. We are now talking about a peace treaty that spans over 20 bilateral agreements. We are engaged in regional development projects in the Taba-Elat-'Aqabah area and in the Jordan Valley; there are so many diverse areas, a Middle East information highway. How can anyone say this is not normalization?

[Granot] Are you happy with the pace at which cooperation with Israel is advancing?

[Hasan] Certainly. There is progress in everything pertaining to the agreements between the governments, but I would also like to see progress in the cultural sphere.

[Granot] Since we are talking about a warm peace between Israel and Jordan, would you say that when it comes to cooperation the sky is the limit?

[Hasan] I believe so.

[Granot] I am asking this because there is talk about the possibility of Jordanian F-16's being upgraded by Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI]. In my view, this is an excellent example of cooperation.

[Hasan] Whatever the case may be, this remark illustrates the saying that the sky is the limit. People in Jordan were elated by the Jordanian Air Force flight over Israel's skies, which contained a nugget of symbolism. There is also a clear commitment on both sides to regional cooperation in the security sphere.

[Granot] Should we take this to mean that the upgrading of Jordanian jet fighters by IAI is a real possibility?

[Hasan] I would definitely not want to make any remarks here that might cool the enthusiasm toward bilateral cooperation in all spheres.

[Granot] At one time you criticized the Oslo agreement.

[Hasan] Do you know anybody who likes to be surprised? It came as a surprise to us. It would have been fitting to ask us what we thought about the issue.

[Granot] Would you like to see an independent Palestinian state, a confederation, perhaps an Israeli presence on the edge of the Jordan River?

[Hasan] Abba Eban spoke once about the Benelux model.... I understand that 'Arafat used the term "confederation" again recently and when he was in Amman he used the term "twins." It is not our job to decide, but what is important is that in the end we do not find ourselves entrusted with handling unfinished business ... or asked to handle the residues of issues for which the Israelis and the Palestinians were responsible.

[Granot] Do you foresee the economic conference in Amman leading to more tangible results than the first conference in Casablanca?

[Hasan] The Casablanca conference was the first of its kind. The conference in Amman will be more concerned with details. I hope that through it we will reach a better understanding of the economic prospects in the Middle East.

[Granot] Finally, I would like to ask you whether you secretly visited Israel in the past and what about a future visit.

[Hasan] As far as my past visits go, there is a wonderful expression in Arabic, la'am. This is a combination of two words, la' and na'am, which means no and yes — take your pick. As for visiting in the future, I would very much like to do that. I would like to attend a concert in Israel, to meet with academics, see some of your achievements, particularly in the field of preserving the environment and developing the desert. There would be a lot to do on such a visit, without creating an imbroglio over a visit to Jerusalem's Old City, seeing that this is a controversial issue. I think that 1996 is a suitable year for a visit to Israel.

King Husayn To Visit Saudi Arabia 'Soon'

NC2910213995 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Report by MBC correspondent Rula al-Sayyid in Amman — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian Monarch King Husayn has declared that he will visit Saudi Arabia soon. In an exclusive statement to the MBC on the content of the message he has received from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Custodian of the two holy mosques, he said that it backs and supports all the good endeavors in this region.

[Begin Husayn recording] God willing, very soon. The content of the message supports all the good endeavors and the reorganizing of the situation in the whole area within the framework of the new developments and of a fair and comprehensive peace. His majesty graciously and personally apologized because his circumstances did not allow him to participate in this conference. I will take advantage of the nearest opportunity to visit him, God willing, and to remind him of his promise to visit Jordan, his second homeland, in the near future, God willing. [end recording]

King Husayn received Dr. Usamah al-Faqih who handed him a written message from the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz. It should be recalled that King Husayn met in New York earlier with Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation.

[Begin Husayn recording] The meeting was fraternal and frank and a constructive atmosphere prevailed. We look to the future with optimism. [end recording]

Despite the fact that King Husayn's visit to Saudi Arabia will take place in the near future, the date has not yet been set. It is certain that bilateral relations between the two countries are now on track toward improvement.

King Satisfied With Saudi 'Fraternal Relations'

LD2910231795 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan expressed his satisfaction with the level of the existing fraternal relations between Saudi Arabia and Jordan. In a statement to reporters on the sidelines of the Amman Economic Conference, he said that relations between the two sisterly countries were moving in positive direction. He added that his talks last week in New York with HRH Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, and HRH Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal aL-Sa'ud, the foreign minister, were positive and fruitful.

Birri Says Amman Summit 'Dangerous' Development

NC0111111095 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Following his meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has denied that the discussions touched on amendments to the constitution. He said that the discussions dealt with the Amman Economic Summit and the escalation of the situation in the south.

Our correspondent Yazbik Wahbah reports: Speaker Nabih Birri has described what happened at the Amman Economic Summit as the most dangerous development in the region since the Balfour Declaration. He noted implicit threats of war in Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's statement. [passage omitted]

Shiite Leader Condemns al-Shaqaqi Assassination

NC3010215695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has condemned the assassination of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement. He said the assassination is a link in the chain of organized terrorism against the Palestinian people and the mujahidin.

Shaykh Shams-al-Din said that Israel does not allow anyone to exercise his right and defend his dignity and freedom, adding that Israel wants to control everything. Shaykh Shams-al-Din maintained that the Palestinian people's resistance will continue.

Amal Leader Blames al-Qadhdhafi for al-Shaqaqi Murder

NC0111092395 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Husayn al-Musawi, the Islamic Amal Movement leader, has condemned the cowardly Zionist crime of assassinating Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi. He noted that this crime followed the U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as capital of Israel, adding that it comes at a time when the Zionist economic invasion has reached most countries of the region.

Al-Musawi questioned the motive behind Libya's insistence that, of all the Palestinian delegation members who visited Libya to solve the problem of the Palestinian deportees, the victim be Fathi al-Shaqaqi. He laid greatest blame on the revolutionaries who have not passed a verdict on Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Yasir 'Arafat, and their ilk despite all they have done. Al-Musawi recalled the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr and his two colleagues in Libya in 1978 at the hands al-Qadhdhafi's hypocrites.

Al-Musawi stressed that martyr al-Shaqaqi had chosen a dignified return to occupied Palestine under the banner of Islam and in the way of the Koran. He rejected those who returned to Palestine under the protection of Israeli guns and the rush by some Arab leaders to win Israeli satisfaction at the Amman economic summit.

Al-Musawi pledged to al-Shaqaqi, who was martyred in the line of religion and resistance of Zionist oppression and occupation, that our struggle against the cancerous Zionist cyst will continue until God's promise of prayers in the al-Aqsa Mosque is fulfilled, with Palestine liberated from the occupation and usurpation, as the martyr of jihad to liberate Palestine and Jerusalem dreamed.

Reportage on U.S. Embassy Move Continues

Birri Criticizes Decision

NC3110122495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri today criticized the U.S. decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He said the decision is a severe blow to the Arab and Muslim people, recognition of the legitimacy of the Israeli occupation, and a crucial infringement of the status of the holy city as the capital of divine religions and of Palestine too.

Birri's criticism came in a cable sent today to Mohamed Jalal Saeed, chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] and the Moroccan House of Representatives speaker. Birri called for holding an extraordinary APU council meeting to discuss this grave development and take the necessary steps on the level of Arab parliaments to confront the challenge.

Article: Arabs To Become Extinct

NC3110221095 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 25 Oct 95 p 1

[Article by Talal Salmane: "The U.S. Knesset!"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Americans do not like history because it is their biggest scandal.

Israel—and behind it the majority of Jews—has always succeeded in employing history, after wrapping it in a religious myth, as the greatest "moral" investment to achieve direct "material" gains in various spheres. These include the economy, media, and international reputation, and especially geography and territory.

The Arabs are left only with history for they have lost or abandoned geography, territory, homeland, and religion. Soon they will become extinct and forgotten.

Yesterday, the U.S. Congress with its 93 senators and 374 representatives started the process of removing the Arabs from their geography and history as a step toward writing them off as a nation once and for all. [passage omitted]

Less than 500 votes in the U.S. Congress are enough for the United States to declare a crusade approximately 1,000 years after its original date. [passage omitted]

The U.S. leaders made their decision while Arab kings and leaders were currying favor with the U.S. Administration, paying homage to its central agency, and showering their millions on its huge factories to buy stagnant products that they do not need and cannot use.

In honor of Hassan II, owner of Morocco, prince of the faithful, descendant of the prophet, and chairman of the Jeursalem committee;

In honor of Husayn, owner of Jordan, descendant of the Hashemite prophet and custodian of Jerusalem;

In honor of the owners of the Peninsula and the Gulf, whose robes are perfumed with the scent of petroleum and who can buy the world with their wealth;

In honor of the officers who have seized power in several Arab countries on a dark night on the pretext of revolting against the kings and the "reactionary and agent" leaders and the tyranny of the "financial cliques," but who have ended up making concessions that the most corrupt royal families and extinct feudal lords have not dared to make;

In honor of all of these and in respect for those whom they represent, some 500 men in Washington have made the decision to cancel the Arab, Christian, and Islamic character of Jerusalem and to declare it the eternal capital of Israel, the state of all the Jews of the world, which is slated to become the central state in the new Middle East. [passage omitted]

They are voting in Washington on our capitols, our women, our sons, our graves, and on the corpses of our prophets and heroes. They voted yesterday on Jesus Christ's birthplace, grave, the Via Dolorosa, and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. They voted on al-Isra' wa al-Mi'raj [Prophet Muhammad's night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem] , 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab's mule, and Saladin's sword. [passage omitted]

It is a new full-scale crusade and there is no room to camouflage it or justify it with diplomatic lies. [passage omitted] It is a coup de grace to "peace" and the "peace process." [passage omitted]

Hizballah, Shiite Council Discuss U.S. Visit

NC3110070295 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 27 Oct 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Contrary to the statement issued on the monthly meeting of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council [HISC] on 25 October, the meeting was stormy and witnessed a row between HISC Chairman Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din and Deputy Chairman Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan on one side and the Hizballah deputies [in the Lebanese Parliament] on the other.

Sources at the conference related to AL-NAHAR the proceedings of the meeting. They explained that the row was sparked when Shaykh Shams-al-Din told the conferees that he intends to visit the United States on 10 November and that he will seek a meeting, if possible, with U.S. President Bill Clinton. However, the main aim of the trip is to visit the Shiite community in the United States.

Deputy Ibrahim Amin al-Sayyid objected to the visit and asked: How can the HISC chairman visit Washington in the midst of the dispute with it over southern Lebanon? Before Shaykh Shams-al-Din can visit the U.S. capital in this capacity, the HISC should discuss the visit with Hizballah.

Mufti Qabalan sharply answered Deputy al-Sayyid: Does Hizballah coordinate with the HISC when it meets with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri? Why does Hizballah keep the HISC in the dark about its contacts with Bkirki [seat of the Maronite patriarch]? He also noted that the HISC knows nothing about the plenary meeting held between the Hizballah and Amal leadership at the Iranian Embassy two weeks ago. Mufti Qabalan continued to blame Hizballah for the way it treats the HISC and its religious institutions.

In the heat of this debate, Shaykh Shams-al-Din intervened to say that he considers the discussion positive, albeit sharp, because it opens the hearts and minds. He said he is ready to give up the idea of meeting Clinton. But he, like Shaykh Qabalan, queried several issues which he regarded as unilateral decisions by Hizballah. He gave as an example the way Hizballah has obstructed the work of the Kayfun mosque's imam just because he represents the HISC, which is supposed to be the source of reference for the Shiites. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri: No Israeli Peace While Land Occupied

NC3010213795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a speech to graduates of the al-Hariri Institute, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri stressed that the Lebanese land in the south and western al-Biqa' will inevitably be liberated. He emphasized that peace is the Arabs' strategic option and that Israel is obstructing this option and is not showing any desire to achieve it.

Al-Hariri noted that the financial situation in Lebanon is stable and the economic situation is improving, adding that there is determination to improve social programs. He noted that the country is qualified to distinguish between what is good and what is bad. He added:

[Begin al-Hariri recording] Peace with Israel, or peace in the region, is a strategic option that the Arabs have decided to pursue. However, there are certain conditions in order for peace to succeed. Most importantly, Israel must first decide that it wants to live in peace in the region. Until now, Israel has demonstrated that it wants to dominate the region. Domination of the region is unacceptable; peace is desirable. Neither we, the Syrians, nor the Arabs will accept Israel's hegemony over the region. If Israel is prepared to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, whether in the Golan, south Lebanon, or western al-Biqa', and if it is prepared to comply with the UN resolutions, then peace will be very near. But, if Israel wants to continue to seize the land, or a portion of the land, and if it seeks a partial or separate peace, then this will lead to one thing, namely, no peace. This is not because we do not want it, but because Israel does not. An agreement needs two parties for authentication. Today, the Arabs are ready, but Israel is not. It is placing obstacles and doing everything to prevent peace in the region. If Israel shows readiness to withdraw from the occupied Lebanese and Syrian territories, then, as we have stated, as have the Syrians, peace will be very near. This is because such readiness would mean that Israel had decided to live as a state in peace with its neighbors. Thus far, Israel has not shown such readiness. Every moment it makes new excuses.

In Lebanon, we believe that we stand to gain more from peace than other Arab countries. Thus, peace is our strategic option. However, we will not sign a peace agreement with Israel while our land is occupied. Syria will not sign a peace agreement with Israel while its land is occupied. Neither Syria nor Lebanon will make peace with Israel before the other. This cannot be questioned. The United States knows it and the Israelis have learned it from the United States. I am publicly stating our position.

The question that comes to the minds of the people is: Suppose the current situation goes on for awhile, what would that mean? The answer is that we will continue to do what we are doing now. Our land is occupied and this pains us. Our people in the south and in western al-Biqa' are struggling and suffering and this pains us, too. However, our people in the occupied territories would not accept making peace with Israel at the expense of our land, dignity, sovereignty, or independence. Thus, we hope that peace will come tomorrow, but not at the expense of our sovereignty, dignity, land, or independence. This is our position.

In the meantime and under these difficult circumstances, Lebanon is united in rebuilding our country. Inevitably, right is on our side and we will be victorious. Our land will inevitably be liberated. This is because the current situation is abnormal for the 21st century. We will have to be patient. We must not give in. If we give in, and God forbid we will not, the price for the entire country will be far higher than our present steadfastness. We must not rush things and say we should do this or that. He who tampers with the national constants always pays the price. These constants are what keep our unity intact and make our country advance from good to better. [end recording]

Druze Protest Prime Minister's Appointment

NC301019[illegible]5 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A sit-in was held this morning at the Druze community headquarters in Verdun, Beirut to protest the prime minister's decision to appoint Salman 'Abd-al-Khaliq as spiritual leader of the Druze community. Shaykh Bahjat Ghayth [acting spiritual leader of the Druze community] said that the Druze community condemns the ill-fated decision. He added, due to our concern for the continuation of domestic peace and the preservation of national unity, which requires rising above narrow disputes, we demand that this decision, which could cause sedition in the community, be retracted immediately. We warn against flagrant interference in the affairs of our community, which has suffered a great deal of injustice.

Fighting, Clashes Continue in the South

'Resistance' Launches 'Blitz'

NC0111064295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent in the south 'Ali Dawud has received a statement clarifying the situation regarding clashes in the south. This morning the Resistance carried out a large-scale blitz against the occupation posts in al-Zaffatah, Bisri, and Anan. The Resistance issued a statement this morning saying its men took control of the Bisri and Anan posts and raised Resistance flags over them. At the same time the Resistance fire support unit was pouring bullets on the al-Zaffatah post, wounding some of the men manning it. The occupation artillery located in al-Zaffatah and al-Dabshah, at around 0630 this morning, shelled the Lebanese Army's abandoned barracks in al-Nabatiyah, the hills of Iqlim al-Tuffah, al-Jabal al-Rafi', and Jba' using 155-mm artillery. The shelling was accompanied by automatic gunfire and Israeli warplane sorties over Iqlim al-Tuffah. The mouthpiece of the Agent militias in the south [Kafr Killa Voice of the South] admitted this morning that the Resistance men attacked the area of Bisri-Anan and said that two men from the militias, allied with the occupation forces, were wounded. The militias radio said the men of the Bisri post thwarted a Resistance attack, claiming that Jazzin came under shelling from the Resistance men. The radio described the attack on the Bra'shit post, claiming no one was wounded among its ranks. The Islamic Resistance announced that one of its groups this morning detonated an explosive device under a mechanized enemy patrol passing on the road to the Bra'shit post. The Resistance also mentioned the deaths of six Israeli soldiers. The occupation forces positioned at the Bra'shit post this morning shelled the main road between Bra'shit-Shaqra-Tibnin, using 155-mm artillery shells.

'Resistance' Claims Attack

NC0111082795 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 0445 today the Islamic Resistance—the Martyrs Hani 'Abid, Mahmud Khawaja, Salah Shakir, and Anwar Sukkar Group in the Islamic Jihad—launched a blitz on enemy positions east of Sidon using every kind of weapon. The Islamic Resistance mujahidin took complete control of the Bisri post and hoisted the Hizballah flag over it.

The Islamic Resistance released a statement a short time ago saying that as part of its constant preparedness to strike at the enemy and his Agents and in response to the bragging of the Lahdist mercenaries [South Lebanese Army] about their capabilities to strike at and cripple Hizballah, the Islamic Resistance launched a major attack on several positions east of Sidon this morning. The attack is part of the continuing retaliation against enemy crimes, the latest of which was the assassination of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the Islamic Jihad Movement secretary general. At 0545 today the Islamic Resistance mujahidin attacked posts east of Sidon. The Bisri post fell to the mujahidin, who took complete control and hoisted Hizballah flags over it. The mujahidin destroyed the fortifications at the post.

The statement said that when the enemy brought a support force to the Anan post during the mujahidin attack, a Resistance group detonated an explosive device near the force, destroying an armored personnel carrier and killing or wounding its occupants. The fire support unit targeted the al-Zaffatah post, firing the appropriate weapons and scoring direct hits.

At 0555 the Islamic Resistance groups attacked the Bra'shit post with rockets and machine guns. At about 0700 the mujahidin detonated an explosive charge near an enemy support force when it approached the Bra'shit post, destroying an armored personnel carrier and killing or wounding its occupants. The Islamic Resistance sources asserted that three Zionist soldiers were killed and others were wounded near the Bra'shit post. All security sources in the south have confirmed the Islamic Resistance attacks on the enemy and Agent posts east of Sidon and Bra'shit. They said two agents were killed and two others were wounded at the Bisri post in east Sidon and two Zionists were wounded in Bra'shit.

A short time ago the Zionist enemy began bombarding the Bra'shit area with smoke bombs. Israeli helicopters are evacuating the casualties from the scene.

A report just in from the editors desk says: The Agent Antoine Lahd radio [Kafr Killa Voice of the South] admitted a short time ago that two personnel were killed and three wounded, one seriously, in the Islamic Resistance attack on the Bisri post this morning. Since 0820 Zionist military aircraft have been flying low over the central sector staging mock raids.

Four Israeli Soldiers Wounded in Hizballah Attack

TA0111085995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Four IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were wounded in a Hizballah attack on an IDF-SLA [South Lebanese Army] position in Bra'shit in the western sector of the security zone. Three soldiers sustained medium injuries and the fourth sustained a light injury. They were evacuated to the hospital.

Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e reports that an explosive charge was detonated near an IDF unit as it was carrying out an operation this morning, and mortar fire was simultaneously directed at the same sector. The four soldiers were wounded by the explosion and firing.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus notes that the Voice of Lebanon reported that Hizballah terrorists this morning held an SLA position in al-Qasr for an hour and a half and fired a Sagger missile at an SLA armored personnel carrier.

Our correspondent in the north has learned from the SLA that they evacuated the al-Qasr position breifly during the Hizballah attack, but they returned with reinforcements and threw the terrorists out.

Two SLA Soldiers Killed

NC0111084995 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The soldiers of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] this morning thwarted an attack on the Bisri post by saboteurs. The saboteurs shelled the post from Dayr al-Mukhallis using Sagger missiles. A group of saboteurs tried to infiltrate the post by crossing the bridge, that is, the Bisri bridge, which goes across the Bisri River and is known as the Bisri crossing. But the soldiers manning the post thwarted the attack, pushed the saboteurs back, and wounded some of them. The number of wounded is not known. The attack martyred two SLA soldiers and wounded three, one seriously. Our correspondent learned that the saboteurs who carried out this attack moved from the area of Dayr al-Mukhallis in al-Kharrub Region. It has also been learned that the saboteurs stole four civilian cars that were parked near the crossing. Violent artillery shelling from Jba' was also recorded at the same time as the attack. The shelling reached the residential areas on the outskirts of Jazzin. At around 0600 today the post at Bra'shit came under artillery shelling from the saboteurs' post in Bra'shit but no one was wounded. The artillery of the two armies, the SLA and the Israeli, responded by shelling the sources of the fire. An explosive device went off under an Israeli army patrol in the western sector, wounding four soldiers, three of them moderately.

Radio Reports Conclusion of Amman Summit

JN0111094895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The three-day Amman meeting was concluded yesterday amid a climate of contradictions and differences, which was evident in the various positions expressed by the delegations attending the meeting. It was clear that the purpose of this meeting was to achieve the Israeli interests in controlling the economies of the region in the absence of genuine peace and in light of Israel's obstruction of the efforts seeking to achieve the just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Israel enlarged its presence in the Amman meeting yesterday, when the ministers of finance, construction and building, and energy joined Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, whose activities in the meetings and discussions overshadowed any other activity.

Israeli Economy Minister [title as heard] Yosi Sarid spoke about what the Amman meeting represents for Israel, saying it was a great event. He said that Israel realized great gains from this meeting on the economic and political levels. He said that because of the meeting, Israel was able to achieve a prestigious position.

Anne-Marie Idrac, French secretary of state for transport, stressed that the establishment of a regional bank for development in the region was not a good idea. She said: Members of the EU share this view. In a news conference she held yesterday, the French secretary added: We have reservations about the idea of the bank.

She noted that the U.S.-European competition in this regard does not mean there is a conflict between the two parties. She proposed setting up a fund to finance the developmental projects in the region as an alternative to the proposed regional bank in order to provide the necessary financing for development through this fund.

Trade Unions Federation Criticizes Amman Summit

JN0111084295 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1710 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 31 Oct (SANA)—The Syrian General Federation of Trade Unions [GFTU] has stressed that the Amman meeting is aimed at turning the Arab region into a market for Israeli goods and products, and providing the Israeli economy with Arab manpower and raw materials.

In a statement issued today, the GFTU said that this meeting constitutes the essence of the Middle East order the Zionist circles seek to impose on the region's states through disinformation campaigns, something which puts the Arab nation's economic and human resources in the service of the Israeli economy.

The statement said that the Jordanian people's rejection of normalization with the Zionist enemy clearly reflects the stand of all honest Arab citizens and their adherence to the objectives of the Arab nation's national and pan-Arab struggle. It also reflects that what is taking place is isolated from the masses of Jordan and the Arab people in all Arab countries, the statement added.

The statement saluted the stands of the honest Jordanian workers and citizens who refused to receive the Zionists and to deal with them, as well as the firm stands of the Jordanian national, pan-Arab, and progressive parties toward the issues of the Arab nation's struggle for liberation.

The statement expressed the Syrian workers' strong solidarity with Jordan's nationalist, pan-Arab, and progressive workers and strugglers who reject the Zionist hegemony and all forms of normalization with the Zionist enemy.

Concluding its statement, the Syrian GFTU stressed that the Amman meeting should be an occasion to affirm the unity of the stand of Arab workers and trade unions against capitulation and relinquishment of rights.

Communist Party Criticizes Israel, Amman Summit

JN0111095695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Syrian Communist Party has stressed that the nationalistic Syrian position expressed by President Hafiz al-Asad plays a basic and important role in opposing the schemes of the Israeli enemy.

In a statement, the Syrian Communist Party said the Amman Economic Summit confirmed that the establishment of the so-called Middle East Market is a dangerous chapter in a larger series to subjugate the Arab region to Israeli hegemony.

The party further asks all nationalistic Arab forces to exert all efforts to coordinate and cooperate to foil the Israeli schemes.

Khaddam Reaffirms 'Unwavering' Stand on Peace

JN3110151895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Comrade secretaries and governors of the Syrian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's branches continued their meetings under comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this morning. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and comrade Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. [passage omitted]

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam gave a comprehensive political review of developments in the Arab and international arenas and the impact of these developments on Arab interests and major causes. He also highlighted the dangers inherent in the continuation of the current Arab fragmentation and noncommitment to the minimum limits entailed by Arab interests.

The vice president also touched on developments in the peace process and the obstacles Israel places to implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and to the international community's endeavors. He also reviewed developments in the Palestinian arena and the Palestinian people's disappointment resulting from the serious concessions made by some Palestinian parties — concessions that helped Israel reap great gains at the expense of the Palestinian people's rights and the central cause.

Comrade Khaddam noted the dangers of involvement in the separate deals and the dangers posed by the Jordanian-Israeli agreement and the Amman economic summit. He also pointed out the risks emanating from some Arabs' thrust toward Israel at a time when Israel is still occupying the land, extorting the rights, waging various forms of aggression against Arabs, and seeking to accomplish the Israel plan at the expense of Arabs and their future with the consent of some of those Arabs.

He highlighted Syria's unwavering and principled position on the peace process — a position that earned the respect and appreciation of all of the Arab people. He asserted Syria's commitment to the peace process and its objective requirements on the basis of international legitimacy, Security Council resolutions, and Israel's full withdrawal back to the 4 June 1967 lines and from all of the occupied Lebanese territories.

Comrade Khaddam explained Syria's role in the current stage under the leadership of the party's Secretary General Comrade Hafiz al-Asad. He also spoke about Syria's pivotal role on the Arab and regional levels, a role that has earned respect and appreciation on the international and regional levels.

At the end of his political briefing, the vice president answered the questions of the comrade attendees.

Christopher Visit Shows Nation 'Back to Square One'

MM3110153995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Oct 95 p 17

[Article by Khayrallah Khayrallah: "Syria: Back to Square One"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When Secretary of state Warren Christopher visits Damascus, he will find of course that Syria is still committed to the peace process because it is a strategic option, and that what is important for Syria is that this process should not be at its own expense. Because Syria is truly committed to the peace process, it has no alternative but to receive Christopher, in the knowledge that his arrival in Damascus serves more than one purpose. First, to confirm that the peace process is continuing and that Syria is still an integral part of it, despite what is happening around it.

To confirm that Syria is still in the peace process will relieve Damascus of the burden of appearing to reject peace, but also relieves Jordan, which hosts the economic summit today. This means that after Christopher's visit to Damascus no one will be able to say that the Amman summit was an obstacle in the way of the peace process, but that, instead, it fits into the natural course of this process, as it has provided the opportunity for the U.S. Administration to renew its efforts to achieve progress on the Syrian-Israeli track.

However, beyond all this and beyond Christopher's visit to Damascus is the fact that Israel is still creating obstacles on the Syria track and is doing so because of the Jewish state's very clear aim to prove, once again and to all involved, that it is the gateway to relations with Washington and that there is no way of improving relations between Damascus and the United States except through the Israeli gateway. What is certain is that the U.S. Administration can only respond favorably to this Israeli proposal, since a senior U.S. official stressed to AL-HAYAH in an interview published 19 October that improving relations between the United States and Syria comes "within the context of the peace process" and not outside it.

This could be the greatest challenge facing Syria, which tried to separate the Israeli and the U.S. tracks, only to discover, after a while, that such a separation is difficult since the United States has refused thus far to accommodate it on any issue on which it believes it holds strong cards, with the exception of Lebanon. Washington does not want to know about Syria's cards in Iraq, Syria's cards with the Turkish Kurds, Syria's cards in the Palestinian issue, or Syria's cards in Jordan, since it strongly supports the holding of the Amman economic summit. Moreover, it was Washington who reassured Damascus that Iraq would not use pressures against it, despite Damascus' belief that it is a major player in the Iraqi arena.

So, it is back to square one, back to the Syrian bet that it can secure a better deal than the one Egypt received. The only certainty at present is that only the Lebanese Government understands Syrian policy best, and knows best what this means for Lebanon....

Radio: Nation Demands Nothing Beyond UN Resolutions

JN0111084895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1238 GMT 31 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has stressed the continuation of Syria's serious commitment to achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of UN resolutions and the international legitimacy. He made it clear to U.S. Secretary of State Christopher that the concerned parties should have the will and desire to make peace. This was an explicit reference to the obstacles placed by Israel to progress on the Syrian track. The impasse plaguing this track is the result of Israel's insistence on impossible conditions that contradict the foundations of the peace process, such as the ground stations on the Golan. These stations consecrate occupation, violate Syria's sovereignty on its land, and flagrantly encroach upon the international law.

It is well known that the Security Council's resolutions guiding the peace process do not sanction the occupation of the land of other by force or tampering with the features of this land as Israel does. These resolutions also do not approve of building settlements on this land. They call for the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation troops back to 4 June 1967 lines and for removing all traces of aggression.

In its drive to attain a just peace, Syria has not demanded anything beyond the implementation of these resolutions. Thus the Syrian position is fully harmonious with the will of the international community and the requirements of the peace process. The party that creates obstacles and mires the progress of peace efforts is Israel. Peace and occupation are totally contradictory. Israel cannot claim that it is working for peace at a time when it is occupying Syrian and Lebanese land.

At the end of his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, Secretary Christopher said that the meeting was very useful and that he will press ahead with his contacts with the concerned parties. Prior to his arrival in Damascus, Christopher affirmed that Syria is committed to the realization of peace in a frank response to the Israeli campaign which sought to cast doubt on the usefulness of his visit to the Syrian capital.

The fact is that Israel's rulers deliberately created an atmosphere of pessimism and skepticism. As usual, they did not hesitate to fabricate lies about Syria. They went as far as recommending the U.S. secretary not to visit Damascus. They believed that this way they would be able to blackmail Syria and prompt it to resort to relinquishment. They forgot that Syria did not relinquish anything in the past nor will it relinquish anything either today or tomorrow. They also forgot that what is at stake is land that has been Syrian since time immemorial — land that was occupied by the Israeli troops through the use of force. Syria has generously sacrificed the blood of its people in the October War for the sake of the usurped land and rights. Not a single Syrian citizen accepts relinquishing one grain of national soil. If some Arab relinquishers were tempted by Israel and signed unfair deals, Syria will never take such a step, because it believes in the sacredness of its land and that a just peace that fully restores land and rights is the only peace that can withstand events and upheavals.

Syria believes that no party in the international community accepts replacing the opportunities for making a just, comprehensive, and solid peace with lame agreements whose flimsiness and ineffectiveness were proven by events. It is in the interest of all parties of the international community that a strong and enduring peace be established in the Middle East. The peace advocated by Syria is the real guarantee for security, stability, and prosperity and it is a strong underpinning for world peace.

Papers Deny Israeli Charges of 'Terrorism'

JN0111120595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Nov 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an article entitled "The Conditions for Peace," AL-THAWRAH notes what President Hafiz al-Asad said during his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher; that the desire and determination to achieve peace must be displayed by the parties concerned.

AL-THAWRAH says President al-Asad's assertion that the parties concerned need to display a determination and desire to achieve peace confirms two facts. First, that Syria's position remains unchanged as regards peace and the means to achieve it. Second, that the stumbling of the peace process and all the hurdles and obstructions it faced were the result of a systematic policy, which has been pursued by Israel since the Madrid conference to sabotage the peace efforts.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that Syria has demonstrated its eagerness for peace and its adherence to the principles of the just and comprehensive solution. Israel, on the other hand, has underlined its rejection of peace within its just and comprehensive framework and attempted to use the peace process as the means to impose partial solutions that are very remote from peace and the spirit of peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Syria alone has displayed the desire and determination through its clear position, keenness on peace, and rejection of the half-solutions and partial settlements. Israel, on the other hand, is the only party which still lacks — intentionally — the desire and determination to achieve peace.

Under the headline "Israel, Master of Terrorism," TISHRIN refers to Yitzhaq Rabin's allegations against Syria after the U.S. secretary of state praised his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and Syria's sincerity about the peace process. In his allegations, Rabin claimed that Syria wants to impose its conditions and has become a hotbed of terrorism.

TISHRIN stresses that Rabin's allegations missed their objective for two main reasons. First, Syria has never been a safe haven for terrorism, but a safe haven for all nationalistic forces, and there is a great difference between the legitimate national resistance against occupation and terrorism. Second, Israel's lies cannot be accepted by the current international circumstances, especially since the world community now realizes that Syria believes in peace and works for its sake, sincerely and seriously, and that there is nothing hindering the achievement of peace in the region except Israel's designs against the Arab territory. Additionally, the charge of terrorism does not apply except to Israel in the first place. It is Israel which expelled the Palestinian people from their country and committed the ugliest massacres in modern history. It is also Israel which is occupying the Arab territory, expelling Arab inhabitants from their homes, murdering innocent people, imposing a tight siege on the Palestinian people, carrying out daily attacks against southern Lebanon, and using the internationally-prohibited weapons.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: It is Israel which has pursued the path of terrorism, murder, and massacres since its establishment. It employed terrorism on all levels, committed thousands of aggressions, and displaced millions of people. On the other hand, Syria has not set any condition for the achievement of peace in the region except the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, which have been adopted as the foundation for peace, and to apply the U.S. land-for-peace formula. Israel rejects the return of land and sets conditions under the pretext of peace, and then directs accusations and makes allegations out of its terrorist logic.

In a commentary entitled "UN Resolutions and the Exposed Israeli Intentions," AL-BA'TH says: If Syria has placed peace on top of its priorities and strategic principles, it, at the same time, does not ignore the evil and premeditated intentions displayed in statements made by some Israeli officials.

AL-BA'TH says: It is not enough to say that there are differences between the Syrian and Israeli positions. The truth is that the real dispute is between Israel and the United Nations as long as Israel rejects the UN resolutions, while Syria sticks to these resolutions. The United Nations is the referee and the point of reference and its resolutions are not supposed to be wrong.

AL-BA'TH adds: The false accusations against Syria, which Rabin stated yesterday, were not intended only for slandering and diverting attention from the Israeli arrogance. Rather, Rabin intended to make threats.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The terrorism, which the Israeli prime minister spoke about, is the making of his entity and army and the Israeli leaders. The Israeli papers yesterday admitted that Israel considers terrorism, assassination, and treachery priorities of action. Israel also patronizes all the gangs of organized crime in more than one place in this world.

Afghanistan

U.S. Official Calls For Reinstating Zaher Shah

LD3110174195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following yesterday's meeting between Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, commander of the Afghan Government's armed forces, and the U.S. assistant secretary of state at Afghanistan's Bagram Airport, sources close to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud said: At the meeting the U.S. official seriously called for the transfer of power to Zaher Shah, the former king of Afghanistan.

A Central News Unit correspondent reports from Kabul that, after an 18-hour silence about the topics discussed between the U.S. assistant secretary of state and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the contents of the discussions were printed by some Kabul publications today, quoting the U.S. assistant secretary of state.

According to the report, after her two-day trip to Afghanistan, the U.S. assistant secretary of state arrived in Islamabad today.

Official Accuses Pakistan of 'Openly Interfering'

LD3110192795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Government of Pakistan is openly interfering in the internal affairs of our country. This was stated by esteemed Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, acting prime minister, during an interview with reporters of TIME international magazine from Australia and the United States [as heard].

After talking in detail about the country's current situation, the process of national reconciliation, and the way to end the present difficulties, esteemed Ahmadzai, in reply to a question, said: The Government of Pakistan has embarked on a series of conspiracies and aggressions, contrary to the expectation of the Islamic State and our people, and it has been following an irrational policy. We call on the Government of Pakistan to change its policy toward Afghanistan. [Passage indistinct]

Rabbani Addresses Women's Rights, Nature of War

LD3110200195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this afternoon met the visiting women's delegation of Japan's peace federation.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reported that at this meeting the country's president first spoke about women's rights from the viewpoint of the sacred religion of Islam, and explained the government's measures in the area of women's education and training.

The esteemed president said: Afghan women enjoy all their human and Islamic rights. They have all their rights in the areas of education, work, and the right to take part in every aspect of life. The fighting in Afghanistan, however, is an obstacle to all normal activities.

Regarding the fighting in Afghanistan, the esteemed president said: The fighting in our country is not a civil war. This is a war imposed on our nation from abroad. As far as this point is concerned, we can prove with evidence the participation of military personnel from regional countries, especially from Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Taleban Reportedly Fires Rockets, Bombs Into Kabul

Rockets 'Harmlessly' Land in Residential Area

BK3110114695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1130 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] KABUL, Oct 31 (AFP)—Two rockets landed harmlessly in a residential area of the Afghan capital on Tuesday [31 October] amid a lull in fighting between government troops and Islamic Taleban militiamen.

Witnesses said the rockets, believed to have been fired by Taleban fighters who have been besieging Kabul since early October, did not cause any casualties or damage.

Defense ministry sources said meanwhile that the frontlines south of Kabul were calm and there had been a drop-off in clashes in the past several days.

Government and Taleban forces lobbed the occasional artillery shell or rocket at one another on Tuesday but the front was relatively quiet.

The Taleban, who have vowed to overthrow the nearly three-year- old government of President Borhanoddin Rabbani, lost six tanks and suffered heavy casualties in an October 25 attempt to break through government lines, officials said.

The black-turbaned Islamic warriors have not launched a large- scale offensive since then against the positions held by troops loyal to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, who commands government forces.

The official Bakhtar news agency said, meanwhile, that three Soviet-made Sukhoi warplanes belonging to the Taleban had been destroyed at an airport in the Taleban stronghold of Kandahar.

Two planes were destroyed on the ground and one exploded in the air, the news agency said citing "informed sources."

Bakhtar did not say how or when the planes were destroyed.

It said the loss of the three aircraft had eliminated the potential of the Taleban to bomb Kabul or government positions around the capital.

Taleban jets staged several desultory raids on the city earlier this month without inflicting significant damage or casualties. [passage omitted]

Fires 14 Rockets; Several Casualties

LD3110145795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1430 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The hireling group of Taleban fired rockets into the residential areas of Kabul city last night and today. A security source reported to Bakhtar that last night and today the mercenary Taleban fired 14 rockets into the residential areas in Kabul city where a number of our compatriots were injured or martyred as a result.

Drops 2 Bombs; No Casualties

LD3110173995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report, a Taleban airplane appeared over Paghman district [in the west of Kabul] this morning and dropped two bombs on [word indistinct] hills where no loss of life and material were caused.

Fires 10 Rockets Near Rabbani Palace

BK0111114495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Afghanistan, four people were killed and nine injured as 10 rockets landed near President Borhanoddin Rabbani's palace in Kabul today. Afghan Government officials accused Taleban militia encamped in the hills south of Kabul of launching the 15-minute barrage, during which most of the rockets landed in woods near the palace. The attack on the city is said to be the heaviest in a week.

Meanwhile, a Defense Ministry source said government troops had launched an offensive to recapture a strategic mountain pass northwest of Kabul from the Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party].

India

Daily Assails Performance of Ambassador to U.S.

BK3110143095 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 28 Oct 95 p 12

[Editorial: "SS Bloomer"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr Siddhartha Shankar Ray easily walked away with the booby prize in India's undignified, unsuccessful and misinformed attempt at scuttling the Brown amendment. Economic sanctions are par for the course in bare knuckle diplomacy. But minnows should know better than to threaten prize fighters with a pinch. The US senators who received Mr Ray's warning should be forgiven their bemusement, if not outright amazement. The Indian policy making establishment cannot afford such luxuries. Theirs is the unenviable job of keeping face in the aftermath of an ambassadorial gaffe. One which overlooked the following self evident facts.

First, India did not stand to lose so much from Mr Hank Brown's proposal as to take retaliatory action. The Pressler amendment remains. The arms balance in south Asia is not about to tilt crazily in favour of Pakistan. Second, even if the "Brown Ian motion" was deemed to be a dangerous precedent and, therefore, called for a diplomatically angry response, bilateral economic ties were the last place to look for return punches. For one, India needs US investment more than the US needs the Indian market. Not only are there other markets to exploit, US economic commitments in India are not of the order that a freeze will send industry captains hot footing to Washington pleading New Delhi's case. Put one way, India is not China. For another, Indian economic threats are not credible. An economic minnow with some recent admirable reforms is not the stuff that puts fear in the hearts of US senators. Put another way, India is not Malaysia, which could and did rub the United Kingdom's nose on the economic diplomacy ground.

Third, and most important, even economically strong nations play it cool when it comes to threat mongering. Japan has for years played obedient listener to the US's hectoring elder brother. That role facilitated Tokyo's quiet way of doing things. Even strident China makes careful cost benefit calculations before making one of its usually breathtakingly amoral threats. That's the norm of good diplomacy—overreaction is but a public show of prepared strategy. Mr Ray's statement, if it was a case of excited nerves, seriously calls into question his suitability as India's most important man abroad. If the threat was indeed part of strategy, his and others assessment of simple realpolitik leaves everything to be desired.

There are reports Mr Ray has rested his defence on his taking a direct line from the prime minister. If culpability does reach that far, bigger question marks than those fit for ambassadorial faux pas are called for. But of course such a division of responsibility may ensure the ambassador gets away with a sentence far out of proportion to his failing.

His other saving grace might be precisely what he failed to notice—India's low status in the world pecking order. Threats from minnows are overlook able if there exists potential for good business. Misplaced hubris can be ignored for exploiting economic opportunities. Diplomatic naivete can be washed away in streams of foreign investment. Mr Ray is unlikely to have caused more than raised eyebrows and a few chuckles in Washington. Since surprise outweighs outrage, bilateral economic ties might survive unscathed.

Mr Pranab Mukherjee's angry reaction to Mr Ray's statement should, hopefully, be all that India needs by way of damage control now. Preventing a repeat might require more drastic steps. A credible threat to an ambassador obviously unfamiliar with the concept can be of help.

Further Criticism of U.S. Envoy

BK0111030695 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 31 Oct 95 p 9

[Article by K.P. Nayar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] IT is not easy for an ambassador to embarrass his prime minister in public. But that is precisely what Siddhartha Shankar Ray did to Narasimha Rao in New York on the evening of October 21.

The setting was the Starlight Roof of Waldorf Astoria, the prestigious, high security New York hotel where U.S. President Bill Clinton, Mr Rao and a host of other world leaders were staying for the 50th anniversary commemorative summit of the UN. The occasion: a reception organised by the consul general of India in the Big Apple for the Prime Minister to meet the Indian community in the city.

Mr Rao had a prepared speech, which evidently dwelt on India's economic reforms, Indo-U.S. relations and a recurring theme during the Prime Minister's latest foreign tour - the stability in policy in India in an election year as opposed to stability in government.

Mr Rao spends a lot of time on his speeches, often writing these himself, rewriting them and making changes right up to the time of delivery. On this occasions he was going through his text, at the same time lending one ear to other speakers.

Quite suddenly, as Ambassador Ray was speaking, Mr Rao stopped reading his prepared speech. He looked up sharply, annoyance writ large on his face. As Mr Rao's turn came to address the non-resident Indians (NRIs) in New York, it was clear why he was annoyed.

The ambassador had brought up his pet theme of Orange Cards for NRIs and had cornered the Prime Minister into making a statement on an issue which he clearly did not want to talk about.

This was the second time in little over a year that Mr Ray embarrassed Mr Rao on American soil on the issue of Orange Cards which would, among other things, exempt NRIs from the requirement of Indian visas. On his official visit to the U.S. last year, Mr Ray had done the same, but the Prime Minister had then got round the issue with a common bureaucratic tactic: he would look into the proposal.

This time, the ambassador left Mr Rao with no choice. He had to tell the NRIs in so many words that Mr Ray's proposal was not feasible. But in having to dwell on this issue, the Prime Minister, who had to rush off for a meeting with the UN Secretary General, was forced to depart from the main themes of his address.

The incident is symptomatic of what has gone wrong at the Indian end in managing a number of crucial areas in Indo-U.S. relations. Typifying such mismanagement is the latest controversy in which Mr Ray finds himself embroiled with his hogs, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee.

For Maleeha Lodhi, Islamabad's Ambassador to Washington, nothing could be more satisfying than the spectacle of Indians quarreling over whether their envoy should be recalled even as the Pakistanis are giving the finishing touches to their reincarnation as an American surrogate in the post-Cold War era.

The problem with Mr Ray is that despite three years as a diplomat in the most high-profile job in the Indian foreign policy establishment, he has not been able to outgrow the petty politics of the West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee (WBPCC).

When his juniors in the embassy some of them with an impressive record in South Block - disagreed with him on the strategy for opposing the dilution of the Pressler amendment, Mr Ray's response was to shunt them out of Washington the way rival Congressmen are shunted out of the WBPCC.

When foreign secretaries disagreed with him, he got on the phone directly to the Prime Minister and ensured that he had his way. Nothing sums up the state of affairs at the embassy as succinctly as the willing ear that Mr

Ray lent to the US assistant secretary of state for South Asia who told the Ambassador that the big problem in Indo-U.S. relations was his deputy chief mission.

Instead of sending the assistant secretary off with a flea in her ear. Mr Ray faithfully communicated her complaint to New Delhi - that too through channels not open to ordinary ambassadors.

It is a truism that defeat brings in its wake recrimination and criticism. It is probably unfair to blame Mr Ray for the passage of the Brown Amendment or for the new equation between the U.S. and Pakistan.

No ambassador can hijack the foreign policy of a sovereign state, least of all a superpower like the U.S. which is paranoid about its security interests. India's battle against the Brown Amendment was lost even before it began.

But India, nevertheless, could have snatched a moral victory out of this defeat. Throughout the campaign for dilution of the Pressler law, Pakistan held the moral high ground, arguing that it had unsuspectingly paid American companies for arms and that it was neither getting the arms nor the money.

The truth, however, is slightly different. Pakistan paid the money - except for an insignificant $50 million - after the Pressler amendment was invoked by President George Bush in the full knowledge that it may neither get the money nor the arms. Islamabad was playing a lottery with U.S. policy and it has now won the jackpot.

Despite advice, Mr Ray refused to put across this argument. The result: India not only lost the battle, but is also seen on Capitol Hill as churlish and inflexible. For this, Mr Ray must bear full responsibility.

Besides, India made no effort to work out a quid pro quo in Washington for moderating its stand on an argument that, in any case, was lost from the start. Instead, the Ambassador staked his personal prestige on defeating the Brown Amendment, ignoring the plea that something could salvaged from the move to transfer arms to Pakistan.

It was just as well under those circumstances that during his five-day, stay in New York, Mr Rao resisted strong pressure from Mr Ray to get him to speak to U.S. Congressmen on the phone and dissuade them from voting for the Brown Amendment, last week.

Daily Urges Nation To Stop 'Obsession' With U.S.

BK3010024295 Delhi HINDUSTAN in Hindi 27 Oct 95 p 6

[Unattributed editorial]

[FBIS Translated Text] Indian-U.S. relations have received a severe blow, but it may prove to be temporary. This hope is optimistic because by looking at the past record of the attitude of the United States towards India it seems unlikely that this growing schism will be covered soon. The United States has no justification in resuming the supply of weapons to Pakistan except for the plea that it is honoring its commitments. Even this does not carry much conviction because had the United States been so particular about honoring commitments it would not have forced Russia to renege on the cryogenic engine deal with India. Honoring past commitments is just a facade for the United States to serve its selfish ends. Pakistan does not currently face danger from any country therefore it does it require the lethal weapons that the United States is delivering to it. The somersault that the U.S. Administration underwent in Congress does deserve close attention. The Pressler Amendment was modified only for the sake of giving Pakistan the advantage. When the Brown proposal did not succeed in its first attempt, the author of this proposal, Mr. Brown, kept quiet, only saying that he would make a second attempt. Actually it was all a flamboyant ruse because the truth of the matter is that the Clinton administration was itself very keen on passing this proposal. The four members of the 14-member Senate Committee who did support India and who voted against the proposal, emphasized the importance of the Pressler Amendment because they knew supplying weapsons to Pakistan would bring a renewed vigor to the arms race in South Asia.

However, if Pakistan is beside itself with joy over the U.S. Senate committee's decision then it must realize that this happiness will not last forever. Pakistan must not forget that the basic aim of U.S. policy is to destabilize the South Asian region. Now the European and Australian media are seeing through the U.S. game and are becoming increasingly sympathetic to the Asian Continent. The bitter fact is that everyone now realizes that U.S. interests in Asia are confined to overwhelming the continent with its coercive tactics and using the region only as a huge market for its own products.

The deep concern expressed by India's External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee is quite natural. Resumption of U.S. military aid to Pakistan worth $370 million is not a matter of small consequence for India, especially when Pakistan has used the U.S. weapons only against India. India is obviously concerned. Now it must enhance its defense budget and curtail funds that had been allocated for various developmental projects. The internal turmoil in Pakistan may also force it to create tension at the border; if for nothing else then at least to divert its people's attention from the internal unrest. Besides being used against India, these U.S. weapons to Pakistan could also be used in the strife-torn Afghanistan to encourage the civil war-like situation there.

Nevertheless India should take a lesson from this series of events. It should candidly admit failure on the part of its diplomatic forces. Apart from that, it must learn the bitter lesson that no cajoling or coaxing could convert the United States into becoming a supporter of India. We have always been obsessed with the pleasure or displeasure of the United States without caring for our loss or our gain. Now we must ignore it because the United States has no consideration for our feelings. Once again it has been proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that Pakistan is the United States' favorite. Since India is a progressive country with independent views it does not and cannot fit into U.S. designs. The United States needs a protege, which India cannot be. It is about time we came out of our confusion and devoted our efforts wholeheartedly to safeguarding our security and defense and instead of wistfully looking at the United States. It is time we extended our friendly hands towards China and the European countries. This decision by the U.S. Senate in the presence of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in the United States is a veiled attempt to insult our Prime Minister and belittle our country's importance. It is high time we got rid of our obsession with the United States and adopted a foreign policy based on hard facts and bitter realities.

Party Leader Asks Parliament To Discuss U.S. Move

BK2710092495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, has urged the prime minister to summon the session of parliament immediately to discuss the situation arising out of the U.S. House-Senate Conference Committee's endorsement of the Hank Brown amendment. Talking to newspersons at Hubli in Karnataka, he described the Clinton Administration's acceptance of the amendment overruling the Pressler law as a proof of the failure of our foreign policy.

On Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Bommai said the political process in the valley should be started before holding the assembly elections.

Article Views Economic Ties, Frictions With U.S.

BK2710033595 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 26 Oct 95 p 15

[Unattributed article: "Yankee Go Home (But Take Me With You)"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It had had to happen sooner or later. After a four-year-honeymoon period, India, US relations have returned to their normal state of equilibrium. Disenchantment and nervousness on the part of the Americans, suspicion and disillusionment on the part of the Indians. Indians are asking — why is it that after so much reforms and liberalisation that has benefited the United States — the US still tilts towards Pakistan? The Americans are asking — after Enron and Kentucky Fried Chicken, is Yankee-bashing returning with a vengeance? Both questions are wrongly posed. This is indeed a tragedy for India and the US are natural economic, scientific and technological allies.

First of all, we are carrying out reforms for our own good. Liberalisation was needed to make the economy competitive and to strengthen Indian position in world markets . Even when we change our policies under duress like, for instance, the patents regime, the major beneficiaries will be Indian scientists and technologists. Biodiversity protocols will help us better develop our genetic resources. We must open up insurance not to help American companies but to bring more social security to our own citizens. So let us be clear-we are not doing the Americans a favour by our economic reforms programme. It is unfortunate that an impression has gained ground that we do not reform except under pressure from Washington. The Americans are not to blame for this. It is our inertia that is responsible.

This point may appear obvious but bears repetition since there is a feeling in responsible intellectual circles that America is not supporting India even though American companies have emerged as large investors in this country. There is no immediate and automatic cause and effect. We would be foolish to expect this. China has a better lobby in Washington because it buys more from the US. Sure, trade will follow investment but in the short-term imports count. China's imports from the US are almost treble that of India's. 14 per cent of Boeing's sales are to China alone and almost a quarter of a million American jobs depend on trade with China. We are not in the same league as yet. And, even if we are, we do not know how to leverage our strength. For example, some provinces of Canada are critically dependent on our imports of potash. But his has never been used by us for our advantage.

We are drawing investments from American companies. But the mega bucks are coming into our stock markets from American mutual funds and institutional investors. Recently, the business page of International Herald Tribune had a prominent advertisement for a fund investment in Indian stocks. Just above the advertisement was a story that Intel was planning to invest $3 billion in Israel, Ireland and Malaysia. This says it all. Fund investments come and go. Intel-type investments give us not only manufacturing strength but also leverage in the US. Our current mix of foreign investment and the current approach of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) will not give us the leverage we wish for.

Our failure to wage peace in the neighbourhood does not win us friends. It is not enough for us to blame state-sponsored terrorism. There are unilateral initiatives that India can take in respect to its neighbours.

We can import more — pig iron, scrap, cotton, tea, natural rubber, processed fruits, marine products, urea and newsprint, to begin with. We can offer our eastern neighbour a long-term water sharing agreement that stipulates a minimum guaranteed supply every year and take the lead in setting up a Himalayan River Commission. We can legalise all border trade. Even K Subramaniam has been suggesting unilateral strategic initiatives in respect of our troublesome western neighbour that, it taken, will not only improve atmospherics but also combat Pakistani propaganda in Washington. We also need to question the wisdom of investment in defence R&D [research and development] an amount every year that is over double the investment in agricultural and industrial R&D.

The Indian DNA is anti-American. We are a proud civilisation. We have much to be proud about, just as we have a lot to be shameful about. But no Indian, however sympathetic to the US, can help but feel wounded when a junior state department spokesman asks India to behave "responsibly" in relation to the US arms package to Pakistan. Enron, Kentucky Fried Chicken and the US West are in trouble not because Indians are viscerally anti-American but because of their faulty corporate strategy and style. Americans are also not demonstrating sufficient sensitivity to the multi-ethnic and pluralistic nature of our society. The American media is hopeless when it comes to reporting on India, raising the bogey of xenophobia when none exists. But great damage to the bilateral cause is being caused by the Indian press also. Indian companies must speak up for the US if they want American companies to lobby on India's behalf.

Both sides have had unrealistic expectations of each other. Both sides have had a profound misunderstanding of each other's societies and cultures. But things are changing and we must see the current dip as the pains of transition. But the dip affects us more adversely. So, we must take the initiative.

French Mirage Sale to Pakistan Said Deplored

BK3110130295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has deplored the reported decision of France to sell Mirage 2000 aircraft to Pakistan. Expressing extreme concern over the development, New Delhi declared that it will have to take whatever steps necessary to safeguard its national security.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that it is regrettable that this has been forced upon India by decisions of Western governments, though they had repeatedly urged India and other developing countries to spend less on defense.

Further on Criticism of Mirage Sale

BK3110162295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has deplored the reported decision of France to sell Mirage 2000 aircraft to Pakistan. Expressing extreme concern, New Delhi declared that it will have to take necessary steps to safeguard national security.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said it is regrettable that this has been forced upon India by decisions of Western governments, though they repeatedly urged India and other developing countries to spend less on defense. New Delhi wants to allocate more on development projects, but the irresponsible arming of Islamabad is forcing India to divert money to defense. Every major induction of advanced weaponry to Pakistan in the past was used by Islamabad against India. The spokesman said in view of the cordial relations between France and India, New Delhi hopes that Paris will realize the implications of the decision and will not place any strain on Indo-French ties.

Pakistani defense experts today discussed with their French counterpart the proposed sale of French Mirage 2000 jets to Islamabad. A French Embassy spokesman said in Islamabad that the talks are part of a series of annual defense consultations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, members of parliament have expressed serious anguish over the proposed transfer of U.S. arms to Pakistan. They felt that the waiver of the Pressler Amendment to enable Islamabad to get $368 million worth of U.S. weapons will adversely affect the security of India, besides leading to an arms race.

Participating in the consultative committee meeting of parliament of the External Affairs Ministry, they said that government should take every possible measure to counter the new threat. The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, assured them that the government is carefully looking into the U.S. package and will take measures to counter the threat effectively.

Radio Views Impact of Mirage Sale

BK0111103495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Nov 95

[Commentary by S. Venkatanarayana]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has expressed its concern over the French Government's reported decision to sell 40 Mirage 2000-5 jets to Pakistan. These planes are superior to the Mirage 2000 jets which the Indian Air Force has in its arsenal. Their notable features include multimode RDY radar with air-to-air, air-to-ground, and air-to-sea coverage, fire-and-forget (Mikha) missiles that can be launched from beyond visual range, and improved software.

Last week's decisions by France and the United States to supply military hardware to Pakistan will aggravate the security situation in the Indian subcontinent. India will have to take whatever steps that are necessary to safeguard its national security. This will mean that India will have to divert funds meant for developmental projects to buy the necessary military equipment to defend itself.

Western governments ask India and other developing countries to spend less on defense, but their irresponsible arming of Pakistan will force India to increase its budget expenditure much against its wishes. In view of the cordial relations between India and France, Paris will realize the implications of its reported decision to supply the sophisticated Mirage 2000-5 jets to Pakistan and refrain from placing any strain on Indo-French relations.

The Mirage deal was disclosed by Pakistan last week. Pakistan Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto went to Paris on her way back home from New York. After meeting President Jacques Chirac, she announced last Wednesday [25 October]: We are happy to say President Chirac has given the go-ahead for the purchase of the Mirage aircraft. But, the French Government is yet to confirm Ms. Bhutto's claim. However, Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh said in Islamabad that talks on specifications, price, and other details can be carried out in detail with the Dassault Corporation, which manufactures the sophisticated Mirage 2000-5 jets. He also said the French displayed a positive attitude on the provision of credit facility.

If finalized, the deal for these jets will fill what Pakistan calls a defense gap. Reports said DGA, the French Government's arms exports board, confirmed that there have been discussions with the Pakistan Air Force on the purchase of these jets, but the talks were exploratory.

Sharma Calls For 'Long-Term Military Preparedness'

BK2610105795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president has called for long-term military preparedness while pursuing peace. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma said the subcontinent today is threatened by forces of terrorism and extremism who foster violence and support terrorism as state policy. He said this can be detected and identified in the country's own border states and in a wider region beyond.

The president was speaking in Jodhpur after presenting the colors to the Flying Instructors School and standard of the 15th squadron of the Indian Air Force at a function today. He said India stands for peace, friendship, and cooperation and would like to solve all outstanding problems through bilateral dialogue, understanding, and friendship. Observing that there should be no room for complacency in dealing with national security, Dr. Sharma said the country should constantly improve its military capability and also carry out organization programs as required. The president also underlined the importance of stability in the subcontinent. The president said peaceful world order evolved over the time should not be allowed to be disturbed for short-term considerations. The president also released a postal stamp and first day cover to commemorate the occasion.

The Rajasthan governor, Mr. Bali Ram Bhagat; the deputy chief minister, Mr. Harcharan Bawara; Minister of State for Defense Mr. Mallikarjun; Minister of State for Defense Production Mr. Suresh Pachori; and the minister of state for environment, Mr. Rajesh Pilot; were among the dignitaries present.

Kashmir Elections Said To Be Announced 'Soon'

BK3010163895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, says the situation in Kashmir is conducive for holding elections, but a final decision in this regard will be taken by the prime minister. Talking to newspersons at Bareilly in UP [Uttar Pradesh] today, he expressed the hope that the election schedule for the state would be announced soon.

The president of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh [State] Congress-I, Mr. Ghulam Rassol Kar, has said that restoration of democratic rule in the state would reduce the miseries of common man. Addressing a series of public meetings in Rambagh, Doda, and Kishtwad in the Jammu region, Mr. Kar said the common people have suffered from many problems in the last few years of turmoil in the valley. He said the backbone of the militancy is being broken now and people in Kashmir are keen to exercise their right of franchise.

Kashmir Leader Said 'Targeted' by Indian Forces

BK3110003795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Reports from occupied Kashmir say a strong mine explosion destroyed a military vehicle in Srinagar, killing six soldiers. Three more soldiers, including an inspector, were killed when mojahedin threw a hand grenade on a military patrol in Pulwama Bazaar. Clashes have also been reported from Hindwara, Rajaori, and Khaneyar with casualties on both sides.

Meanwhile, brutal siege and search operation by Indian occupation forces continued unabated. Nine people are reported martyred in fresh acts of violence. Several people, mostly youths, were taken into custody and were sent to torture cells.

Reports say the Indian forces targeted the house of a prominent Kashmiri leader and acting chairman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Syed Ali Gilani, in Srinagar city. The cell fired by the forces pierced into the roof of the first floor and exploded with a great thud, resulting in heavy damage to the building. The family members of Syed Ali Gilani, however, escaped miraculously. Addressing a press conference in Srinagar today, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders strongly condemned the Indian forces' attack on Syed Ali Gilani's house, which was tantamount to a murderous attempt on the family of a prominent Kashmiri leader. The leaders felt that the Indian Government was scared of the international impact of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and wanted to eliminate its effective leadership. In this connection, repeated attacks on the life of another prominent Kashmiri leader, Khwaja Abdul Ghani Lone, were recalled.

Arrested Pakistani Reveals ISI Kashmir Conspiracy

BK3010064095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Pakistani national arrested last week for the Republic Day bomb blast in Jammu has revealed that the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] has floated several groups in Sialkot area bordering Jammu to create large-scale violence and disturbances to disrupt the political process in Kashmir.

Ghulam Haider alias Gama of Sialkot said that he and two other Pakistani militants were given time bombs to plant into the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu. Ten persons were killed and 60 injured in the blast. Eleven police personnel of the state police have been given cash awards for their commendable role in cracking the case. The director general of police, who gave away the awards, said efforts are continuing to get the safe release of four foreign tourists taken hostage by Al-Faran about four months back.

Export of Defense Items Said Up 213%

BK3010092095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The exports of defense items has gone up by 213 percent in the last three years. According to an update of the Indian defense industry, this achievement was possible because of measures taken by the Center which include procedural liberalization, marketing efforts, and exchange of delegations. In the recent years, the defense production units have been trying to diversify their activities into the civil trade. While the ordnance factories have diversified their production mainly for the paramilitary organizations, the defense PSU's [Public Sector Units] have raised production for export and non-defense sector.

Preparations Completed on Light Combat Aircraft

BK2810135995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] All preparations have been completed for the roll-out of the first prototype of the Light Combat Aircraft [LCA]. The trial is likely to be carried out in the next few days at the HAL [Hindustan Aeronautics Limited] complex at Bangalore. The major systems of the aircraft have been assembled and will be tested during the roll-out. Though an American engine will power the first prototype, the DRDO [Defense Research Development Organization] is developing an indigenous engine for later versions. The LCA uses Stealth technology with its wings being specially shaped to minimize detection by radar. DRDO sources told our correspondent that a radar absorbing coating may also be given to the plane later on. The LCA project, which commended 20 years ago, has cost more than 2,000 crore rupees so far.

Bank Intervenes in Rupee Slide Against Dollar

BK2710090695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Reserve Bank of India [RBI] had to once again intervene yesterday to halt the slide of the rupee against the U.S. dollar. The dollar opened at 35 rupees 50 paise and gradually went up to a high of 35 rupees 85 paise at the inter- bank foreign exchange market. At this stage, the RBI intervened by selling dollar at a rate lower than the prevailing market price. After the intervention, the rupee firmed up and closed at 35 rupees 50 paise per dollar.

Banking sources have attributed the fall in the rupee value to short-term economic conditions arising out of a rise in imports and government's debt payments. As a result of demand-supply gap, the market forces are pushing the dollar upwards.

Hindustan Motors Plans Small Car With Mitsubishi

BK2910102095 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 28 Oct 95 p 1

[Article by Surajeet Das Gupta: "Hindustan Motors Plans Small Car With Mitsubishi"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hindustan Motors [HM] and Mitsubishi have begun feasibility studies to launch a below 1,000 cc passenger car to take on the might of Maruti Udyog. The two collaborators are weighing various alternatives, including developing a brand new model for the Indian market.

Speaking to BUSINESS STANDARD, C K Birla, HM vice chairman, said: "We are working on a small car which would match the price of the existing competitors in this segment".

The feasibility study is part of HM's strategy to become a big player in all segments of the car market. The company is investing Rs [rupees] 350 crore to treble its car making capacity from 28,000 now to 75,000 by the turn of the century.

Mitsubishi which is planning to pick up 10 per cent equity in HM already has a small car — the Minica. The 550 cc car was launched by the Japanese giant in 1984 and has been a big hit with cost- conscious customers.

In the first phase of its collaboration, however, HM is launching the Mitsubishi Lancer some time in 1997.

HM is also working on various improvements in its existing models — the Ambassador and the Contessa. HM is considering introduction of a 2-litre turbocharged engine model, besides a 2-litre diesel version of the Contessa. The latter is under test marketing nationwide. In the Ambassador, new generation seats, a new dashboard and upgraded brakes are being introduced very soon. HM expects to increase production of passenger cars by 17 per cent from 28,000 in 1995 to 33,000 in the current financial year. It expects the sale of Contessa to go up by 44 per cent from 3,400 to 5,000.

HM is also launching a rural transport vehicle powered by a 2- litre engine. The company expects to sell at least 6,000 rural transport vehicles. The new vehicle, according to company executives, would be priced in between the Mahindra Commander and the Tata 407 and is expected to be launched in the first quarter of 1997.

HM is also planning to set up a new facility to manufacture the Mitsubishi Lancer. In the first phase it will produce 8,000 cars, increasing the capacity to 24,000 vehicles in the second phase.

The company plans to begin production with 50 per cent indigenisation, going up to 75 per cent in a few years.

HM also investing Rs 50 to 60 crore in expanding its earth moving division. The company has tied up with Fermec for manufacturing back-hoe loaders.

Iran

Protests Said Held at Former U.S. Embassy

'Forceful Presence' Urged

NC2810132295 Tehran SALAM in Persian 18 Oct 95 p 2

[From the Newsdesk]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ceremonies marking 13 Aban [4 November] will be held throughout the country at 1400 local time on 4 November.

According to the public relations department of the Islamic Propagation Organization [IPO], an IPO coordination council meeting was held at the headquarters for the 4 November ceremonies attended by representatives of cultural centers, students of schools and colleges, and popular groups in the presence of the acting head of the IPO coordination council at the central office premises.

All the members stressed the need to reinforce the sentiments against the powers of world arrogance, obedience to the absoluteness of the Velayat-e Faqih [rule by the supreme jurisconsult], and cohesiveness. They called on every level of society, especially the student bodies, to show the cohesive and forceful presence of the people in the 'Yowm Allah' (Day of God) ceremonies on 4 November.

At this session the officials of the various specialized committees submitted reports on similar meetings to the headquarters.

Concluding the session it was decided that the ceremonies against the powers of world arrogance would be held at 1400 on Saturday 4 November outside the den of spies [U.S. Embassy in Tehran] and countrywide at the same time.

U.S. 'Arrogant Actions' Condemned

LD3110164095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A number of the students of Tehran universities today held a protest march and later gathered in front of the U.S. former Den of Spies [U.S. embassy] on the eve of 13 Aban [4 November].

Our correspondent reports that the students shouted slogans such as "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" and condemned U.S. arrogant actions and the Zionist's terrorist measures. At the ceremony, stress was made on the importance of continuation of the path of Imam Khomeyni and following His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic. It was also announced that the students will take part in the national ceremonies marking 13 Aban.

Majles Notes Protest Against 'Global Arrogance'

LD0111122695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In his comments at the opening of today's open session of the Islamic Majles, Mr. Rowhani, deputy speaker of the Islamic Majles, welcomed 13 Aban, the national fighting day against the global arrogance [4 November: reference to day students stormed U.S. Embassy in Tehran], and said that it is a reminder of great and destiny-making memories and events in the history of Islamic Iran. He added: Despite the countless conspiracies and efforts by the global arrogance against the Islamic Revolution, the regime of the Islamic Republic is strong, and is fast experiencing the path of progress and advancement.

The Majles deputy speaker said an intensification of the U.S. Government's hostile acts against Iran have been unprecedented in the past few months. He said that these acts manifest the fact that the Washington rulers have fear and worry about the stabilization and strengthening of the sovereignty of the Islamic regime and its vast and profound progress inside Iran and its strong and valuable position abroad. [passage omitted]

According to a report by a Central News Unit correspondent, a number of articles on Islamic Penal Law were approved during today's open session of the Islamic Majles,

Under an article approved today, any of the government officials and employees, who, contrary to the law, deprive any single member of the nation of their individual freedom or deny them the rights set in the Constitution, will be sentenced to from six months to three years imprisonment in addition to being dismissed from the service and deprived from holding official posts for three to five years. [passage omitted]

Jihad Envoy Cites U.S. Role in al-Shaqaqi Murder

LD0111140595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The representative of the Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine in Tehran announced that information received shows that the Zionist regime's intelligence organization, backed by U.S. intelligence, assassinated and martyred Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Movement, in accordance with a premeditated plan.

Abu Jihad Muhammad today, in an interview with the Central News Unit, referred to the threats made by the leaders of the Zionist regime against the Islamic Jihad Movement in the past few months, saying: The Zionist regime's decision to assassinate al-Shaqaqi was taken months ago. He said the assassination of the Islamic Jihad Movement's Secretary general was a consequence of the compromise between 'Arafat and the Zionist regime. He added: The martyrdom of this relentless struggler proves that compromise with the occupying Qods [Jerusalem] regime will not lead to anything save the destruction of the Palestinian nation. We have made a pact with the martyrs of Palestine to continue their path more resolutely and not to ever enter into a process of compromise with the Zionists.

The representative of the Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine, in this interview, expressed appreciation at the sympathy shown by his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, guardian of the cause of Muslims, and the assistance he has extended toward the family of that martyr. He also praised his eminence's favors toward the liberation struggle of the people of Palestine.

He said: The blood of martyr al-Shaqaqi, who was nurtured on the ideology of Imam Khomeyni and was a follower of the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, will facilitate the struggle against the Zionists.

Radio Views Israeli 'Fear' After al-Shaqaqi's Death

NC0111065795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 1 Nov 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Zionist regime's criminal act in martyring Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Organization of Palestine, has sparked a wave of rage and aversion against them. For this reason, today has been declared a public mourning day in Islamic Iran and various ceremonies are to be held to laud the great martyr of the Palestinian nation.

Although the compromising governments in the region have remained silent on the assassination of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, popular groups and organizations and spontaneous gatherings throughout the world of Islam have expressed their aversion to the terrorists ruling Tel Aviv. And the extent of these reactions is so great that the Zionist regime's fear and terror, both in the occupied territories and anywhere it has interests, are clearly visible.

The pure body of martyr al-Shaqaqi is to be buried in Damascus today in a ceremony. The Zionists have not allowed the burial to take place in his birthplace, Gaza. However, Gaza was one of the first areas turned over to the Palestinian self-rule government and 'Arafat and his group apparently have the rule in their hands in that city. And this shows how just the Palestinian people's protest against the PLO's compromise with the occupying Zionist regime is.

A statement by the Islamic Jihad Organization of Palestine says: The self-rule government, which is responsible for the fate of the residents in the Gaza Strip, cannot even bury our martyrs on its territory. This is a manifestation of its dependence on Israel.

Meanwhile, the occupied territories on the West Bank of Jordan and in the Gaza Strip have been the scene of strikes and unrest since the martyrdom of Dr. al-Shaqaqi, and by holding special ceremonies and street demonstrations, the Palestinian Muslims are actually declaring intensification of the anti-Zionist struggle. The terrorist rulers in Tel Aviv have realized the depth of the crime they perpetrated, and adopted strict security measures in their military and vital centers. Banning the entry of people under 35 to occupied Palestine from areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is among these measures.

During the last few days, a vast wave of protests against the Zionist regime's terrorist and criminal acts has overtaken the world of Islam and the occupied Palestinian territories. It seems that contrary to what the occupying terrorists thought, the act they have perpetrated has not only failed to help the compromise process, but further intensified the opposition against compromise.

Fight for 'Palestine' Reportedly 'Will Continue'

NC0111073995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In tandem with the burial of the pure body of the standard-bearer of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine, the brother and sister members of the group are to declare the future programs in the struggle against the occupiers of Palestine and emphasize that they will continue in the course charted by Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

Martyr Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the worthy son of the Palestinian nation who became the target of a terrorist act by Mosad elements last week, was the true example of a freedom-loving Muslim who fought until his last breath to achieve his lofty objective: the liberation of Palestine from the clutches of the occupiers. Martyr Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi was not the first person to be sacrificed for the sake of Palestine's liberation, and undoubtedly he will not be the last.

Although the Palestinian nation was rendered homeless following a plot hatched by the West and international Zionism and was ousted from its land and homes, it never stopped the struggle to vindicate its rights and resisted against the occupiers. It refused to put its fate into the hands of a bunch of compromising elements and Western transactors who want to confine the Palestinians in a corner of their own territory. On the contrary, it has always fought—even though empty-handed—with the usurpers of Jerusalem and their mentors; and the half-century since the occupation of Palestine has not dulled the aspiration of the Palestinian nation.

The new generation of Palestinians is armed—more than ever before—with the crushing weapon of "God is Great" and they have accepted, with open arms, to struggle and be martyred for the sake of their sacred aspiration, thus proving wrong the tale of the Zionists' invincibility which was propagated by the reactionary Arab governments.

Today, 10 years after its commencement, the Intifadah—the spontaneous uprising of the Palestinian nation, one of the leaders of which was Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi—has threatened the Zionists so much that, on one hand, they are hastily trying to promote the compromise process and, on the other, have once again turned to terrorist acts in a bid to remove the true strugglers of the Palestinian nation and the opponents of compromise from the scene. They forget that by shedding the blood of each and every child of the Palestinian nation, not only Palestine, but the world of Islam becomes more determined and raises its voice, more unified than ever, to demand the annihilation of Israel and the liberation of Jerusalem.

Khamene'i's Office Urges Mourning of al-Shaqaqi

LD3110155495 Tehran IRNA in English
1416 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 31, IRNA — The office of the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, in a statement invited all Muslims to attend mourning memorials to be held on Wednesday [1 November] for the assassinated secretary general of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine, Fathi al-Shaqaqi. The leader of the Islamic revolution earlier declared Wednesday a day of public mourning for the entire Islamic community simultaneous with the funeral of the martyr al-Shaqaqi.

Al-Shaqaqi was assassinated by Zionist agents in Malta on Thursday. The office of the leader expressed hope that the Muslims across the world will attend the memorial services being held in the Islamic world and pay glowing tribute to the distinguished personality of the assassinated Palestinian leader. The statement said that Fathi al-Shaqaqi was the follower of the late Imam Khomeyni and was inspired by the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Nation Said To Hold Day of Mourning

NC3110182895 Paris AFP in English
1636 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 31 (AFP) — Iran is to hold a day of mourning on Wednesday [1 November] when the Iranian-backed Palestinian militant chief Fathi al-Shaqaqi, slain in Malta last week, is buried in Damascus.

Iran's leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, announcing the day of mourning, urged "Moslems around the world to take part" in mourning ceremonies for al—Shaqaqi, head of the Islamic Jihad.

A protest is also planned Wednesday outside the former Israeli embassy, which has been turned into an embassy for the Palestinians.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, blaming Israel, has said the assassination of al-Shaqaqi last Thursday in Malta was "the most flagrant sign of an act of state terrorism."

Israel has neither denied nor confirmed charges from Islamic Jihad that a hit squad of its intelligence service Mosad carried out the killing.

Al-Shaqaqi whom Israel expelled in 1988, is to be buried at a Palestinian refugee camp in the Syrian capital alongside other fallen activists. Israel refused to allow the body to be returned to his native Gaza Strip, Jihad said.

Ayatollah Jannati Leaves for al-Shaqaqi's Funeral

LD0111130495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Heading a political delegation, Ayatollah [Ahmad] Jannati, the representative of the Islamic Revolution leader, Grand Ayatollah Khamene'i, today left Tehran for Damascus to take part in the funeral procession of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

Ayatollah Jannati said: The U.S. can no longer accuse the revolutionary Muslims of terrorist activities after the assassination of Dr. al-Shaqaqi since the U.S. itself is the biggest support of the state terrorism sponsored by Israel.

Majles Speaker, Austrian Envoy Discuss Relations

LD2510215095 Tehran IRNA in English
1822 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA — The Austrian ambassador to Tehran, Erich Martin Buttenhauser and Iranian Majles speaker, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here on Wednesday [25 October] held talks on Tehran-Vienna relations.

Buttenhauser expressed hope that the scheduled visit to Vienna of Hojatoleslam Nateq-Nuri would be a turning point in bilateral relations.

He said experience has shown that cooperation between Iran and Austria had always borne fruitful results.

Nateq-Nuri referred to the high level of diplomatic relations between the two countries and hoped for further promotion of the relations.

The Majles speaker underlined the importance of Tehran-Vienna parliamentary relations and said the cordial ties between the two countries would remove any ambiguity in this regard.

Majles Speaker Pays Official Visit to Austria

Arrives for 3 Day Visit

LD2910220095 Tehran IRNA in English
1948 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vienna, Oct 29 (IRNA) — Iran's Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri and his high-ranking political-economic delegation were accorded a welcome at the airport here this evening by the president of Austria's Nationalrat Heinz Fischer.

During his three-day stay here, Nateq-Nuri will have talks with high ranking Austrian officials including President Thomas Klestil, Chancellor Franz Vranitzky and Foreign Minister [title as received] Wolfgang Schuessel.

The speaker is accompanied by Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, Roads and Transport Minister Akbar Torkan, Construction Jihad Minister Gholam Reza Foruzesh, Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi and deputy head of the Majles Foreign Commission Mohammad Javad Larijani.

Nateq-Nuri would also be visiting Ireland and Qatar before returning to Tehran.

Confers With Officials

NC3010092995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0330 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamic Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, who is heading a high-level politico-economic delegation to Austria, met the Austrian parliamentary speaker yesterday. Our special parliamentary correspondent reports on the issues discussed during this and other meetings of the Majles speaker:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] In their preliminary talks at Vienna Airport, the two speakers discussed the need to create the conditions for greater cooperation, especially in industry, and broadening parliamentary contacts.

Abdul Rahim Zaheer, the head of the Austrian Muslim community, met Nateq-Nuri at his residence. During this meeting, at which some Islamic studies professors were also present, the head of the Austrian Muslim community presented a report to the Islamic Majles speaker on the situation of the Muslims in Austria and the method of teaching Islamic studies, especially the holy Koran, in Austrian schools. He stressed the need for greater unity among Muslims and attention to the tenets of Islam and the Koran. He said: There are 300,000 Muslims in Austria. Some 35,000 are students, currently pursuing courses in Islamic studies.

Nateq-Nuri expressed his pleasure at meeting the professors of Islamic studies in Austria and seeing their activities and emphasized the need for extensive efforts in instructing Muslim youths and motivating them toward greater unity.

The head of the Iran-Austria Friendship Association (Freyer Linger) met Islamic Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri and exchanged views on ways and means of boosting cooperation between Iranian and Austrian friendship groups. [end recording]

Meets With Parliamentary Speaker

LD3010142995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1030 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri met with Heinz Fischer, Austrian parliamentary speaker, today in Vienna. Our correspondent reports:

At the meeting, which was also attended by senior officials from the two countries, the speakers of the Iranian and Austrian parliaments held talks about expanding parliamentary ties and increasing cooperation in political and economic fields.

Heinz Fischer described Nateq-Nuri's presence in Austria as very important and, referring to the long standing relations between Iran and Austria, he expressed the hope that bilateral talks would yield very effective and constructive results.

Nateq-Nuri, for his part, referred to Austria's good strategic and economic position and its membership in the EU. He noted the need for the expansion of economic cooperation and relations and invited Austria to take part in the implementation of large economic projects in Iran, especially in relation to Iran's second five-year development plan.

The Majles speaker will meet the Austrian chancellor and president this evening.

Comments on Human Rights

AU3010155395 Paris AFP in English
1501 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vienna, Oct 30 (AFP) — Iranian parliament speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri criticized on Monday [30 October] the West's "selective" approach in considering human rights issues in Iran and said his country could be as critical as regards to these countries.

Nateq-Nuri, whose comments were relayed to reporters by Heinz Fischer, the president of the lower house of parliament here, told the latter during their meeting that Iran had as much right to be critical of European countries and the United States in terms of their own human rights record.

Fischer said that other issues discussed focused on bilateral relations and the Middle East peace process.

Nateq-Nuri arrived in Austria on Sunday and was to meet on Monday with Austrian President Thomas Klestil and Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. He is to meet with Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schuessel on Tuesday.

His visit here marked the second time a high-ranking Iranian official travelled to a European Union country in the aftermath of the Salman Rushdie affair in 1989.

Iran at the time issued a religious edict condemning the British author to death for his book "The Satanic Verses" deemed blasphemous by many Moslems.

Meets With President, Chancellor

LD3010194295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listners we continue our news bulletin with a report on the visit of the Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri to Austria.

On the first day of his visit, Nateq-Nuri met the Austrian chancellor, president, and speaker of parliament. The Austrian high-ranking authorities stated that Nateq-Nuri's presence in Vienna is very important and called for expansion of ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky expressed an interest in the expansion of ties between the two countries and referred to Iran as an important and determining country in the region. At the meeting between Nateq-Nuri and the Austrian chancellor, economic cooperation between the two countries was discussed, especially the ways of activities and the sessions of the joint economic commission of Iran and Austria.

Austrian President Thomas Klestil referred to the historical ties between Iran and Austria and pointed out the importance of these ties and relations between the two countries.

At a meeting held between the two countries' speakers of parliaments, Heinz Fischer expressed the hope that bilateral talks would yield very effective and constructive results.

In his talks with the Austrian chancellor, president, and speaker of parliament, Nateq-Nuri expressed satisfaction at the level of ties between the two countries. He referred to economic and strategic situation of Austria and Iran and called for Austria to cooperate and participate in the implementation of Iran's vast economic projects, specially in the implementation of the second socio-economic development plan.

Cites 'Extreme Satisfaction' With Visit

LD3110183595 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vienna, Oct. 31, IRNA — Iran's Parliament President 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri expressed extreme satisfaction with his 3-day official visit to Austria.

At a press conference here Tuesday [1 November] he noted on his discussions with Austrian officials on bilateral relations, international issues, development of economic ties and trade exchanges, including the European Union (EU).

Nateq-Nuri further added the that high-ranking delegation accompaning him which included ministers of roads and transportation, industries, as well as the president of Iran's Chamber of Commerce held constructive talks with their Austrian counterparts.

Asked on the issue of sentenced apostate Salman Rushdie, Iran's head of parliament stressed that Iran will not, and has never dispatched a killer-commando to Europe for the killing of the Indian-born British national. But the religious decree (fatwa) issued by the late father of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni remains in force and has been confirmed by Islamic religious leaders everywhere. Apostate Rushdie was sentenced to death in line with Islamic laws against blasphemy by Imam Khomeyni on February 13, 1989, days after the sacrilegious novel 'The Satanic Verses' spilled Muslim blood in India and Pakistan.

Nateq-Nuri further called on the journalists, present at the press conference, to pay more consideration to the killing of Bosnian Muslims including their human rights. Criticizing the lack of action for the past three years by NATO and its show-bombardment of Serbian positions, he welcomed any show of force, even at minimal level, against Bosnian Serbs.

Nateq-Nuri left Vienna for Dublin Tuesday evening on the second leg of his 3-nation tour which will end with Qatar.

Argentina Asked To React to 'Terrorist Attempt'

NC2710214295 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Oct 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Argentina Must Take a Stance on Terrorist Act"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Iranian Charge d'Affaires to Argentina, Hasan 'Ali Rajabi-Yazdi, was severely injured by a terrorist attempt on his life in Buenos Aires yesterday.

The terrorist act is likely the outcome of an alignment between the terrorist Mojhahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) and Zionist terrorist groups.

Ever since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Zionist circles have spared no effort in disturbing Iran's relations with other countries. When a bomb exploded at a Jewish center in Buenos Aires last year, the Zionist circles promptly tired to use the occasion to level baseless charges against Iran. However, they did not succeed in their attempts. Last month Argentine President Carlos Menem announced in Manila that Iran was not involved in the Argentine bomb blast.

Having failed in their attempts to tarnish Iran's relations with Argentina, Zionist circles have now targeted an Iranian diplomat with a two-pronged strategy: On the one hand, the Zionists have a vendetta against Iran, and, on the other hand, they try to follow the same strategy in disturbing Tehran-Buenos Aires relations.

The MKO's main motive behind such plots is also disturbing Iran's relations with other countries. The MKO is a terrorist organization with bloodstained hands. Their ringleaders are assassins of top Iranian officials and ordinary citizens.

The MKO is in doldrums, facing an internal crisis. Over the past few years a large number of its members have defected. In order to convince members to stay in the organization, the MKO is prepared to carry out any heinous plot. When the head of MKO, Mas'ud Rajavi, fled to Paris in 1981 he promised the organization's members that he would return to Iran to form a government within three months. But his promises have turned out to be empty. As a result, the membership of the group shrinks day by day. In order to prove to its members that Iran is in a crisis, the MKO is once again trying to tarnish Iran's relations with other countries.

Iran has always condemned any act which aims at the lives of innocent people.

As the unfolding events proved, after last year's Buenos Aires bomb explosion some Argentine officials made statements they should not have made. Now the ball is in the Argentine court: Firstly, Argentina should make a clear-cut stance vis-a-vis the terrorist attempt on the Iranian diplomat's life and, secondly, they should bring the culprits to book in order to prove that Argentina is safe and just.

Minister's Comments on Argentinian Attack Reported

LD2810100395 Tehran IRNA in English 0757 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 28, IRNA — Iran expects to receive all the information pertaining to the Argentine investigation of the attack on an Iranian diplomat in Buenos Aires, said Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi.

Speaking to the English-language daily IRAN NEWS published Saturday [28 October], Va'ezi, who is in charge of the Euro-America affairs, said a special Iranian representative, Mohammad Reza Bakhtiari, will go to Buenos Aires sunday to obtain first hand details about the investigation.

The Islamic Republic's charge d'affaires in Buenos Aires, Gholam-'Ali Rajabi Yazdi, 33, was shot by an unknown assailant in the city's suburb of Belgrano October 21.

Va'ezi stressed, "We feel foreign hands are at work to damage Iran's relations with the Latin American countries particularly with Argentina, and we think global Zionism is playing the major part in this anti-Iran political campaign."

The deputy foreign minister added that within the framework of protecting the interests of both Tehran and Buenos Aires, the two countries should endeavor to prevent such foreign plots from succeeding.

"According to international conventions, the safety and security of all foreign diplomats are the responsibility of the host country, and we hope that Argentina would prove its commitment to those conventions," he stated.

Asked about Iran's opinion on how the investigation has been conducted so far, Va'ezi noted, "we have to wait until our special representative comes back and reports on the Argentine Government's actions."

Russian Minister Concludes Official Visit

Meets Atomic Energy Official

LD3110165095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting with [Reza] Amrollahi, head of our country's Atomic Energy Agency, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov emphasized Russia's determination to implement all its agreements with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Aleksey Bolshakov today concluded his three-day visit to Tehran. He stressed the expansion of ties between the two countries in a communique signed jointly by ['Ali Akbar] Velayati, our country's foreign affair minister.

Stresses 'No Dispute' Between Nations

LD3110180395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov concluded his three-day visit to our country at noon today and left Tehran. He was officially seen off by Mr. Mohajerani, vice president for legal and parliamentary affairs.

At Mehrabad airport, the Russian deputy prime minister told correspondents: Russia will implement all its commitments in the agreements signed between Iran and Russia, especially in the sphere of nuclear energy. He added that research work on Bushehr power station is continuing and that the implementation details of the agreement were also discussed with the Iranian authorities during the visit.

He stressed that there is no dispute between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia at present about any issue. He said that the legal regime of the Caspian Sea was another topic of discussion with the Iranian authorities. He added that important and key negotiations were held in Tehran on the subject and discussions on the issue are expected to continue in Moscow in the future.

Mr. Mohajerani also evaluated as positive the results of the high-ranking Russian delegation's visit to Tehran and called for the further expansion of ties between Iran and Russia.

NIOC Official's Views on Caspian Sea Reported

LD2810161895 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA — Iran's position towards formulation of the legal regime for the Caspian Sea and the proposals in this regard are in compliance with the international law, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) official in charge of oil exploration, Mehdi Huseyni said here on Saturday [28 October].

Speaking to IRNA correspondent at the Ministry of Petroleum, Huseyni said the Caspian Sea is an inland sea whose status is not defined as an open sea.

Asked about Russia's stance towards the Caspian Sea in light of Russian interest in Azerbaijan's consortium, he said, Russia has separated the private sector's activity from its political considerations, so that it would remain firm in its position towards a legal system for the Caspian Sea while at the same time continuing its business with the Azeri consortium.

On the Azeri consortium's choice of Russia and Georgia as routes for export of Azeri oil to Europe, he said those routes would cost the consortium three time as much as the route that passes through Iran.

He said the exclusion of Iran from the Azeri consortium took place through political pressure from the U.S. and the routing of oil pipeline through Russia and Georgia was also due to the pressure from Washington and Moscow.

The Azeri oil should be carried through a 2,300 km of pipelines crossing various borders and facing many hazards with a large amount of money having to be spent on maintenance of such a long network. In addition, 170 km of new pipelines should be laid and several pumping stations set up to boost the capacity of the network, he said.

He estimated that the consortium would spend between 300 to 400 million dollars to carry out the pipeline network project, whereas, the route through Bandar-e Anzali port of Iran would cost less than 100 million dollars. This would be a double loss imposed on the consortium for political considerations, he said.

He confirmed that the Azerbaijan Republic has conceded the right of exploration of Karabakh oil field to Moscow. The Russian state oil company, Lukoil is expected to cooperate with Azerbaijan in exploring oil in the Karabakh oil field, he said.

He said the digging operation by the Azeri oil consortium would not damage Iranian oil reserves in the Caspian Sea, adding that the amount of pollution in the Caspian Sea is the same as other regions where oil explorations are underway. He said according to preliminary estimation, some 28 billion barrels of oil would be produced in the Caspian Sea.

Pointing to the recent visit to Tehran of president of Azeri state oil company, Natik Aliyev in which he demanded Iranian partnership in development of Shahdenis oil field in Azerbaijan, he said feasibility studies have been conducted and the final approval of Iranian partnership in the Azeri project depends on policies of the country and decision of the Iranian oil minister, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i.

'Firm' Russian Caspian Sea Stance Said Expected

LD0111113795 Tehran IRNA in English
1118 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 1, IRNA — In the light of cordial and friendly relations with Moscow, Tehran expects the Russian stance on the legal regime of the Caspian Sea to be firm and without any ambiguity, a morning daily wrote Wednesday [1 November].

The former Soviet Union's geography and history underwent a dramatic change in the wake of the disintegration of the powerful communist empire, which had served as a superpower for almost 70 years, the English-language IRAN NEWS added in its editorial.

In the light of major geopolitical changes in this strategically important part of the world, it is but natural for the concerned states to revise and review the legal aspects prevailing in the region, it stressed.

One of the most prickly issues is the legal status of the Caspian Sea, the editorial said, adding that Iran and the Soviet Union, in bilateral agreements in 1940, had decided the Caspian's status as a lake, but a half century later, the Soviet demise saw the Caspian divided several ways.

Iran and the Soviet Union also had an agreement in 1921 through which the then eastern superpower gained the right to cross Iranian borders and occupy its territory 'if Moscow considered a potential threat to its own territory from Tehran', it said. "After the culmination of the Islamic revolution in 1979, Iran declared articles 5 and 6 of the 1921 agreement null and void," it stated.

It reiterated that from the onset of their independence, the Central Asian republics tried to determine the legal regime for the use of the Caspian and its seabed resources.

Unfortunately, it regretted, Azerbaijan's President Heydar Aliyev made certain remarks concerning the legal regime of the Caspian, creating an uneasy situation in the region that was followed by uncertainty in economic developments. Aliyev brushed aside the demands of the littoral states of the world's largest lake and signed a dlrs. 7.4 billion agreement with an 11-company consortium for the exploration of the Caspian oil fields, the daily continued.

"Russia and Iran agreed that the legal regime be determined first before inviting companies from outside the region for lucrative business in the caspian," it underlined. Despite its crystal clear stance, Russia is one of the partners of the September 20, 1994 agreement that sparked controversy from the very first day, the editorial noted.

Increased Oil Sales Reported Despite Embargo

LD3110221695 Tehran IRNA in English
1724 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Oct. 31, IRNA — Traders are beginning to acknowledge Iran's success in selling oil displaced by the U.S. embargo to other markets in its policy of preferring to supply directly to refiners.

French, Italian and Spanish refineries were reported this week to have doubled their purchases of Iranian crude following U.S. President Bill Clinton's attempt to use oil as a political weapon when imposing a unilateral trade ban against Iran.

Last week ENERGY COMPASS said that the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) was fast becoming OPEC's biggest spot supplier of sour crudes into the Mediterranean region as new territory was being staked out to replace U.S. customers suffering from the embargo.

It suggested that traders hoping to capitalise on the trade ban by picking up Iranian term volumes next year were likely to be disappointed, quoting a NIOC source in Tehran saying there would be "no change" in policy of preferring to supply direct to refiners in 1996.

Few traders are cited having anything but admiration for Iran's successful handling of the displaced crude sales with its flexibility on the spot market seen as a key.

Most term customers have been preferring to maintain current contract volumes and acquire additional barrels on a spot basis, despite pressure from the U.S.

The success story is underlined by Iran increasing its share of France's total oil imports to around a fifth compared to only a tenth during the first five months of this year, according to statistics from the French Ministry of Industry.

According to PETROLEUM ARGUS weekly, ISAB of Italy and Spain's CEPSA also doubled their 30,000 bpd of Iranian purchases in August. Italy's Unione Petrolifera is also said to have boosted imports from 160,000 bpd in the first five months to 230,000 bpd.

While discussions are reported to have been held with Singapore refiners on processing deals and extra barrels being offered to Far Eastern customers, formal term negotiations for most Mediterranean lifters are due to get underway in November.

Meeting Discusses Oil Industry Successes, Tasks

LD3110214595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today chaired the general assembly of national companies of oil, gas, and petrochemical industries of Iran.

At the assembly the president emphasized the need for more fundamental use of gas and oil reserves to improve the country's financial and industrial strength. He said that suitable advantage should be gained from the relative benefits and great added value of these industries. The president also stressed the need for using the products of various industries including peripheral oil industries for the sake of reducing the country's economic dependency on the export of crude oil. He expressed satisfaction about the performance of the subsidiary companies of the Oil Ministry.

In a report about the performance of oil, gas, and petrochemical industries companies, Oil Minister Mr. Aqazadeh announced that from 1368 [21 March 1989 - 20 March 1990] up to the end of Shahrivar [23 August - 22 September] of the current year [beginning 21 March], 40 billion barrels of new oil and gas reserves have been discovered in the country. In the past six and a half years ago, a total of 11 billion barrels of oil and gas have been produced for domestic and foreign [as heard] consumption and for export purposes.

In a report on countering the U.S. oil embargo against Iran, the oil minister said: During the first six months of the current year the country's foreign currency revenue has increased by $917 million from the export of crude oil and its products. The oil minister also presented a report on employing expert domestic manpower in most of the oil industry projects and maintaining suitable winter reserves of oil products. He said that the performance by the National Company of Petrochemical Industries has been successful.

Referring to the conclusion of the petrochemical projects in the current year, he proposed inviting domestic and foreign private sectors to participate in the projects.

In conclusion the general assembly approved a proposal to increase the capital of the Iran National Oil Company by 4,500 billion rials.

Paper Views Officials' Stand on Domestic Media

NC3110131895 Tehran SALAM in Persian 11 Oct 95 p 8

[Commentary by M. Veysi: "Why Foreign Radios?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] One of the constant requests and advises by the officials in our society is that the people refrain from listening to foreign mass media and news dissemination sources, and namely, radio stations which are biased in their reporting.

There is no doubt the world's big news networks like CNN, ABC, REUTER, AP, BBC, and so on, which conduct and direct the most major part of news reporting in the world, each represent the interests of their proprietors and major shareholders first and then the national interests of their governments second. [passage omitted]

Thus, it is only natural for the advice and requests by government officials to stem from their acquaintance with the atmosphere that rules in such networks—networks that seize each and every opportunity to strike at the revolution and system of the Islamic Republic. And basically speaking, the significance of their news-propaganda onslaught against the values governing the Islamic Revolution and their efforts to make the people disenchanted toward the Islamic system and its gains is not any less significant than the overt and covert military attempts by some of the officials in their governments. Nevertheless, the question is: How can we go beyond advice and requests and prevent people from listening to biased news sources, and how can the people's needs be met through more trustworthy and healthy sources?

Undoubtedly, the answer to this question is that an all-aspect effort is needed. And we will not be exaggerating if we say that the reason why the people turn to biased news sources is psychological, sociological, and... [ellipsis as published], and this is an issue which must be carefully assessed. But is the Muslim and revolutionary nation of Iran and many of the freedom-loving people throughout the world, who are under such news- propaganda bombardment by the news agencies, aware of the sinister objectives of these news octopi and their behind-the-scene intentions. [passage omitted]

In order to understand the issue better, it is necessary to explain the matter more. Recently, representatives from the conflicting Kurdish parties of northern Iraq travelled to our country where they met and held talks—thanks to efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran—to discuss peace and tranquility in northern Iraq.

A glance at the news and reports published on this topic proves many points. Reports on these talks were not only not placed at the disposal of the public, but even the press did not receive correct and timely reports on the talks. Naturally, if the need to safeguard national interests and security dictates that some of the aspects of these talks be kept confidential, the press will not have any complaints and will understand the officials' wish for confidentiality. But can news that the talks are being held and reports on many of the aspects of the talks that can be reported be kept from the public, so much so that the people sometimes turn to foreign sources? In the opinion of the officials, is this phenomenon the outcome of their own shortcomings and the fact that there is no trust in the domestic press and mass media, or do they think that there is no public interest whatsoever to hear news about such a sensitive area and that, therefore, there is no need for news on this to be placed at their disposal? If there was truly no need to publish such reports, why did the official mass media which feeds the other mass media report this news with a few days delay—and not citing domestic officials, but AFP? Even then, they failed to give the report in its entirety, thus making the other mass media waste more time due to technical shortcomings and to report it one day later.

Is it better for news on the meeting between two members of the anti-Saddam opposition in Tehran to be reported by domestic officials or for the people to have to turn to the biased foreign news agencies to hear such news, despite the damaging impacts that such foreign news agency reports have? Are the officials helping in any way to build the people's confidence in the domestic mass media's timeliness?

Naturally, whether a report on other parts of the world is taken from the foreign press or not is not as important. We are, first and foremost, more interested about reports on what happens at home, followed by reports on areas such as the Middle East and the world of Islam coming next. Within this context, if a report on the "surrender by the coupists in the Comoros Islands" is published hours later because of the distance involved and the lack of technological capabilities and reaches the Iranian public from foreign news agencies, this is not very regrettable and may not even be important at all. But can the same be said about the domestic and sensitive news which we mentioned above, and can the lack of capabilities be used as an excuse?

It seems that one of the logics behind this ugly phenomenon that exists among our administrative organs and their negligence toward the domestic press stems from their notion that "the less the domestic press knows the less it will criticize the administrative system." This useless way of thinking is based on the idea that the less the domestic mass media knows about domestic news and developments, the less it will criticize, and the less time the administrative organs will spend dealing with such issues...And also the people in this organ think that by adopting a closed news policy they can hide their own weaknesses and even portray these weaknesses as their strong points to the people!

Therefore, one can say that the ugly phenomenon of the people turning to foreign news agencies—and we stress that this is irrespective of whether these news agencies are biased or not— stems, on the one hand, from the weakness in capabilities of the domestic press and mass media and, on the other hand, from the indifference of the officials in the relative organs in supporting the domestic press and mass media, as well as from their unjustifiable lack of trust and indifference toward the domestic press. Our intelligent people desire to receive information and news from healthy and trustworthy domestic news sources and not to turn to biased or even unbiased foreign media, on the condition that the necessary grounds for instilling their confidence in the press and mass media exist and relations between the officials and our mass media become more and more logical each day.

Pakistan

French Bomb Suspects Possibly Trained in Region

BK0111055395 Hong Kong AFP in English
0537 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Nov 1 (AFP) — Suspects in a wave of terror bombings in Paris went to Pakistan and Afghanistan, where they may have received training in weapons and explosives handling, reliable sources said here Wednesday [1 November].

The suspects were young Frenchmen of North African origin, who travelled to the region on a tourist visa or under the guise of a worker for a non-governmental organisation (NGO), the sources said.

They are suspected of receiving Muslim fundamentalist indoctrination there, as well as training in the handling of guns and explosives, before returning to France, they said.

The sources were reacting to a report Monday in the the French tabloid Le Parisien, which quoted what it said was a document from the French counter-espionage service, the DST.

The DST said seven dozen young men, mainly from the Paris suburbs, underwent military training on the Afghan-Pakistan border between 1991 and 1994, according to Le Parisien.

The border region has long been considered a training ground for Middle East or Muslim radicals. According to Jane's Defence Weekly, more than 10,000 Arab veterans of the Afghan conflict remain active in the cause of Muslim fundamentalism today.

The veterans are believed to form the hard core of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the chief group suspected in the Paris bombings.

It is the most radical of the groups campaigning for a Muslim state in Algeria, where around 30,000 people have been killed in civil unrest since December 1991.

A total of 193 people, most of north African origin, have been charged with terrorist-related offences in France, notably for providing logistical and arms support for the GIA.

Seven people have been killed in France, and 180 injured since July 25.

Editorial on Bhutto's Meeting With French President

BK2810100795 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Oct 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Give This Deal a Stronger Foundation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] What transpired in Paris between Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and President Jacques Chirac opens a new vista in our diplomatic relations. In addition to the deal regarding the procurement of Mirage 2000-V for Pakistan Air Force, the two countries could help each other in many other fields both at home as well as abroad.

France has been known for pursuing an independent foreign policy resisting even those pressures which usually make many advanced countries of Europe surrender before the dictates of the new custodians of world peace and diplomatic ethics. France went ahead with its nuclear tests, it initiated a bold and meaningful step in thwarting the ugly ambitions of the Serbs in Bosnia Herzegovina, and made economic and defence deals with the third world countries without giving a damn to the dictates of copo globo. These initiatives would indeed go a long way in persuading the Asian and African countries that a country that knows how to exercise the privileges of sovereignty would respect the aspirations of other nations who are faced with a host of problems perpetrated by some big blackmailers in the international community.

But then, there is another side of France which also needs to be understood and that is its unqualified support to the military dictators of Algeria who have been constantly violating the principles of democracy, equality and brotherhood, so neatly enshrined in the French identity. This face of France represents not the legacy of the French Revolution but unfortunately its past as a colonial power.

This has led to the acts of terrorism on the French soil by those who do not approve of French policies in North Africa. While we agree with their stand that no Western power including France should meddle in the internal affairs of those countries who are passing through the difficult transitions from dictatorships to democracies, we condemn their methods in bringing their viewpoint to the limelight through such acts of terrorism that target innocent commuters. This is where Pakistan could play an effective role through OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] and other forums to bring a rapprochement between France and the Algerians to discover healthy and positive mediums of dialogue. So far as Pakistan's interest at home and abroad are concerned, the French could also contribute in many ways. The most important of such fields could be the transfer and/or sharing of technology.

It is indeed a major achievement on the pat of Islamabad to import the latest flying machines for our Air Force but ultimately, we shall have to acquire the skill and the technical know-how to attain self-sufficiency in defence. Importing sophisticated weapons is not only a cumbersome phenomenon, it is also extremely expensive for a poor country like Pakistan. We already owe Paris some two billion dollars and the new deal is going to add another 1.25 billion dollars to this debt. Without an infrastructure to maintain these planes and to keep them updated and equipped with the latest technology, Pakistan will have to repeat this exercise now and then. In addition to the intrigues of the Indian lobbies to thwart such deals, it would also mean more foreign exchange each time we go for shopping.

Luckily the leadership both in France and Pakistan understand these aspects of future implications of acquiring latest defence technology and if the recent talks between the French president and Pakistan's prime minister could be any clue, this is the time to initiate and establish a relationship that is enduring and keeps in sight its future developments. We should keep in view our past experience of the raw deal of nuclear power plant.

The prime minister's visit has made an impact and it needs to be sustained and developed on those lines that go deeper into public opinion makers in both countries. As a Muslim country, Pakistan can help France in highlighting Paris' positive contribution in Bosnia- Herzegovina.

Similarly, as an advanced European country, France can assist Pakistan in those areas of social, economic, and technological fields which would indeed bring the two nations closer to each other. Pakistan could also use its influence in helping France shape its policies towards the Muslim World which appreciates and accommodates the hopes and fears of those who see only one side of France — its colonial legacy.

Diplomatic Efforts for Iran-U.S. Ties Reported

BK3010122795 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 30 Oct 95 p 1

[Staff report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Oct 29: Pakistan has initiated a diplomatic effort to bring rapprochement between Iran and US, as it did to end the Gulf between China and US under the leadership of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in early seventies. The high level contacts established between Islamabad, Washington and Tehran, in this regard, were appreciated by the policy makers in Washington.

Diplomatic circles in Islamabad are giving great importance to the forthcoming visit of Premier Benazir Bhutto to Iran scheduled in first week of November.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, while talking to this correspondent after the address of President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari to the joint session of the Parliament here on Sunday [29 October] did not rule out the possibility of a reconciliatory role of Pakistan in this regard.

Rather he said "United States knows that we have good relations with Iran. Similarly Iran is also aware of our friendly ties with US. Both the countries are aware of our potential.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, to a query, said "such messengers are conveyed and not announced". He said Pakistan was always willing to play a reconciliatory role between Iran and United States. Not only this but we already have offered to play such a role in ending differences between North and South Koreas.

Minister: All Illegal Immigrants To Be Deported

BK3110141395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The interior minister, Mr. Nasirullah Babar, has assured the National Assembly that all illegal immigrants would be deported in the shortest possible time. Replying to points of order raised by a number of members from Karachi and interior Sindh, he said there are some 2 million illegal immigrants in Karachi. Their influx is causing economic pressure and denying employment opportunities to the local people. The immigrants included those from Burma, the Philippines, Bangladesh, and some other countries. He said 700 Bangladeshis, who had come illegally by air, have been sent back.

Later, the house took up private members business, resuming discussion on a motion about the price hike in the country. Thirteen members had taken part in the discussion when the reports last came in.

Article on Opposition Response to Leghari Speech

BK3010142995 Islamabad THE NATION in English 30 Oct 95 p 1,4

[Report by Imran Munir]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD — The Opposition boycotted the President's address to the joint sitting of the Parliament on Sunday [29 October] after the opposition leader Nawaz Sharif was refused permission by the Speaker to address the House. Opposition members made their entry into the House supporting black armbands as a sign of protest and disrupted the President's speech by shouting and creating commotion, but speaker Yousaf Raza Gilani rejected their protest saying "This is not a time to raise points of order". During the President's speech, the opposition left the House shouting anti-government and anti President slogans.

Later, Leader of the Opposition Nawaz Sharif addressing a Press conference said "We did not expect to President to dissolve the government because he cannot do this. We want him to play his role and for that matter we wanted to apprise him of the situation in the country."

Nawaz, flanked by parliamentary heads of various political parties, listed out a number of anti democratic actions of the government, its failure to deliver the goods on foreign affairs, economy and deteriorating law and order situation besides the President's persistent silence regarding these issues.

He said that the President can use this day to bring the country out of the mess if he behaved as a president of Pakistan instead of a party president. He said they wanted to avoid any unpleasantness, therefore, they had decided in a meeting to hold protest against the conduct of the government and the president. He said if he was allowed to speak in the House it would be good for the country because he wanted to raise serious and positive issues instead of criticising the personal conduct of the President.

He said under this government the Parliament has been turned into an insignificant institution and the President is party to it. He said Opposition legislators were beaten in the House, MNAs [members of National Assembly] were framed in false cases and despite the passage of one year even their challenges have not been produced before the court, adding "Even despite the ruling of the Chair they were not brought to the House". Did the President take any action, he asked.

This government has done terrible harm to the judiciary by appointing jiyalas as judges but what action has the President taken, he further asked.

He said the President claimed that he wanted to play a role of a bridge between the opposition and the government but he never made any contact with the opposition.

Nawaz went on to say that the President has become a party to trivialise the role of the Parliament by issuing bundle of Ordinances, asking "Does he ever send any ordinance back". Did the President take any action when a treason case was registered against the leader of the Opposition".

"If the Opposition, which enjoyed a massive mandate of the people and bagged more votes than the ruling party, did not accept the President than how can majority of the people accept him as president", he asked.

Raising the Karachi issue, Nawaz said the whole nation is crying over what is happening in Karachi where innocent people are being killed in fake encounters and in police custody. He said what is happening in Karachi is unique in the world where people and law enforcing agency men are being killed.

He asked "What is going on in Sui, Malakand, Bara and other parts of the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Bhutto. No province is safe now".

He said "On political front we saw imposition of 234 in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] and its phase 2 in Punjab". He listed out the details of the corrupt practices of the government to overthrow the provincial government of NWFP and Punjab by imposing the 234. He also spoke against the role of Asif Ali Zardari during the horse trading and political victimisation of the opposition members to force them to change their loyalties.

He said the present government has given another mini budget before the presidential address as a result of which people are being further crushed and number of families are being pushed to commit suicide. He said people whose lives had already become miserable under the massive billing of WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority] and inflation have been further weighed down by the current price hike, adding "We want to raise the voice of the poor in the house but were denied the opportunity".

He said the economy of the country is in shambles and according to his information the World Bank and IMF have decided to sever ties with Pakistan. Listing out the details of the state of the economy Nawaz said the government has broken the back of agriculture sector and more than 40 percent of the textile industry has closed down.

While referring to the massive corruption and lavish lifestyle of the Prime Minister and her spouse, he said "No future prime minister will be able to reside in the Prime Minister's House because it has turned into a stud farm housing 81 horses whose estimated price is more than 350 million.

On foreign affairs, he said, "Our friends have left us. What is going on in Afghanistan and Kashmir", he asked. "We are heading towards disaster" he added.

Concluding his address, Nawaz said they wanted to eliminate corruption and other wrongdoings of his government, adding "We are not a Darbari politicians as their days are numbered".

He warned that if they were not allowed to play their role, some one else may do so and that would be dangerous for the country.

Attack on Kashmir Leader's House Condemned

BK3110150995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A spokesman of the Government of Pakistan has strongly condemned the cowardly attack on the house of Syed Ahmad Shah Gilani in Srinagar. He was responding to a question about the bomb blast at the residence of veteran Kashmiri freedom fighter and leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, which Mr. Gilani had attributed to Indian intelligence agencies.

The spokesman said such acts of terrorism and intimidation designed to demoralize freedom fighters in Indian-held Kashmir would not succeed in shaking the resolve of the Kashmiri people or their determination to continue their struggle against Indian occupation. The spokesman stressed that, in this struggle for freedom from Indian occupation and for the realization of their right of self-determination, the people of Kashmir would continue to enjoy Pakistan's unequivocal diplomatic, moral, and political support.

Uranium Mining Said To Help Build Nuclear Program

BK2310122895 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 23 Oct 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The commencement of exploration and mining of uranium deposits at Qabul Khel, NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] is indeed a reassuring development which, in the long run, is likely to make the country self-reliant in fuel for its nuclear programme.

Anwar Saifullah Khan, the federal minister for petroleum and Natural Resources reportedly inaugurated the ceremony marking the beginning of the uranium mining programme, on Wednesday [18 October]. He was right in his assertions in his speech that Pakistan's nuclear development efforts would receive a fillip in case the mining and processing of uranium deposits was successfully accomplished.

Uranium is the strategic and basic material. Its domestic availability which will ensure a meaningful progress towards the goal of developing the country's potential in the field of nuclear technology. The minister reportedly disclosed that Pakistani engineers and nuclear scientists have attained capabilities to design, fabricate, install and operate a uranium processing plant. The country's first atomic reactor established by any Muslim country in the world, was already in operation over the last two decades. The discovery and mining of uranium in Pakistan also makes this country the first Islamic state which possesses uranium deposits.

The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission of Pakistan, Dr.Ishfaq Ahmad in his welcome address, on the occasion, rightly justified Pakistan's practical steps for the discovery and mining of uranium deposits in view of the restrictions the developed countries have placed on the export of uranium to developing countries. He already in progress while the method used for exploration and mining, according to him, was unconventional in the context of mining technology. As he reportedly stated, the locally developed mining method was adopted keeping in view the precaution to avoid chances which might lead to sagging and crushing of ores possessing uranium. No tunnels therefore could be laid out. Moreover, the unconventional method was stated to be free from any hazards of accident while it was also environment friendly because the waste material, for disposal would be low in quantity.

It appears that the processing facilities for the ores which would be minded, would have to be located near the mining site so that transport of ores in bulk to long distances could be avoided. The machinery involved in the processing of ores, is reported to have been designed and fabricated by Pakistani engineers and scientists which is indeed a highly encouraging aspect as the dependence on imported machinery, which can hardly be made available by any developed country to Pakistan, has been completely dispensed with.

A few other sites bearing uranium deposits are reported to have been discovered by the scientists and geologists working for the country's Atomic Energy Commission.

The progress in exploration, mining and processing of uranium, is undoubtedly a highly significant milestone that Pakistan has achieved in the development and exploitation of nuclear technology for its peaceful uses, such as, the development of agriculture generation of electricity, medicine and other fields. Pakistan has already registered significant strides in the use of nuclear technology in developing new varieties and strains of raw cotton and other crops. The country's further success in its achievements in the nuclear fields as a result of the domestic availability of processed uranium, would thus greatly add to its economic and defence potential.

Sri Lanka

Troops Reportedly Preparing for Jaffna Advance

'Sources' Report 300,000 Refugees

BK0111041095 Hong Kong AFP in English 0355 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 1 (AFP) — Security forces were preparing Wednesday [1 November] to advance further into rebel-held territory in northern Sri Lanka as tens of thousands of civilians fled the area fearing a major show down, the military said.

Thousands of infantry troops backed by tanks and artillery guns were poised to resume their march towards the town of Jaffna, the headquarters of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a military spokesman said.

He said they were still awaiting details of overnight fighting but ground troops had set up new defences at the town of Neerveli, captured from the LTTE after a ferocious two-day battle that left 176 combatants killed on both sides Monday.

"On the map, it looks easy. We have another five miles (eight kilometres) to cover before go to Jaffna. It is not that easy. The bloodiest fighting is yet to come," spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

However, he said the LTTE may have moved some of their heavy equipment, such as the rebel radio station, out of the embattled peninsula and relocated it in the northern mainland where there had been no fighting.

The security forces launched their ongoing offensive, code-named Riviresa (sunshine), on October 17 with the objective of capturing Jaffna, the capital of the northern region which had been under rebel control for five years.

Tamil sources said that 200,000 to 300,000 people have been made refugees as a result of the fighting and most of them have sought shelter in the southeastern sector of the peninsula, Tamil sources said.

An estimated 10,000 Tamil men, women and children left the peninsula completely and arrived at the northern mainland on Tuesday, travellers said as the Tigers issued an SOS for recruits to defend Jaffna, their final bastion.

The army's capture of an underground LTTE hospital at Neerveli was regarded as a serious blow to the guerrillas who were hard pressed for facilities to treat their large number of casualties, aid workers said.

The LTTE's political wing Tuesday issued an appeal to Tamil youngsters to enlist in the guerrilla movement in a bid to defend Jaffna and recapture the territory taken by advancing security forces.

The Tigers have declared a state of "war emergency" in Jaffna, 400 kilometres (250 miles) north of here. But the escalating fighting has prompted the authorities to tighten security here for fear of Tiger revenge attacks.

The Tigers are leading a guerrilla campaign for an independent homeland for Sri Lanka's two million Tamil minority in the northern and eastern regions and more than 50,000 people have died in the bitter homeland struggle since 1972.

LTTE Flees as Security Forces Advance

BK0111114195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The security forces are advancing on the northern town of Jaffna. Troops of Operation Riviresa [sunshine] have seized many towns from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and captured the main base of the Tigers' air wing. They encountered a large number of antipersonnel mine fields, in addition to enemy resistance. Their advance along the western axis was slow as the area was built up.

Jaffna city, the stronghold of the LTTE terrorists, was almost deserted yesterday after the guerrillas fled ahead of the advancing troops. Aid workers said that the mass exodus began after the troops overran the town of Neerveli on the road to Jaffna. It marked a turning point in the military campaign to recapture the entire peninsula.

Reports say that at least 700 terrorists have been killed and more than 2,000 wounded in the offensive launched on 17 October. The Army has lost 179 men and had 640 wounded. The Air Force attacked LTTE targets in Urumpirai and Kopai. Pilots confirmed direct hits on some of these targets. They estimated that over 100 terrorists were killed and at least 200 injured in this incident. The capture of Neerveli and Urelu by the troops had dealt with a severe blow to the LTTE. They seem to be in total disarray. Military sources said that the troops have taken all possible precautions to avoid civilian casualties during the confrontation and air and artillery attacks. They are reported to be consolidating their position in the newly captured areas.

Intelligence reports suggest that the LTTE is dismantling its military functions in the Jaffna peninsula and moving to other parts of the north still firmly in their control. They have declared a state of emergency and called for volunteers to battle the security forces. They head of the political section, LTTE Tamil Selvan, has appealed to youth to help prevent the Army from capturing Jaffna. The military spokesman said that by declaring the emergency and a curfew in Jaffna, it has become clear that the LTTE wants to restrict the movements of the civilians so that they could be forcibly armed to attack the advancing troops.

Air Force Attacks Said To Kill 46

BK0111140995 Hong Kong AFP in English 1343 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 1 (AFP) — The top civil administrator in Sri Lanka's embattled north Wednesday [1 November] said that air attacks and shelling by security forces had left at least 46 civilians dead at four refugee camps in the region.

In a memorandum to President Chandrika Kumaratunga, the top government official in the northern Jaffna peninsula, K. Ponnampalam said 46 civilians were killed Tuesday and over 50 injured due to the aerial strikes.

The military is currently carrying out a major offensive to capture the town of Jaffna, the main stronghold of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Ponnampalam demanded a halt to air attacks on civilian areas and urged the government to declare the densely-populated Thenmaratchi region east of the Jaffna town a safe zone to protect civilians.

"On behalf of the fleeing innocent civilians, refugees and children, I beg (you) to stop bombing and shelling and avoid deaths of innocent civilians," Ponnampalam said in his memorandum, a copy of which was received by AFP.

Aid workers said that so far about 100,000 civilians have fled Jaffna town to Thenmaratchi ahead of an anticipated army assault on the Tiger stronghold.

Ponnampalam said that diarrhoea and eye disease was "spreading very fast" in refugee camps in the Jaffna peninsula.

Aid agencies said that diarrhoea had broken out in at least one welfare centre in the north and that there was a serious threat of disease surfacing at other refugee camps.

The airforce has been carrying out raids in the Jaffna peninsula to help the on-going army advance on Jaffna town and the military has denied that its aircraft had targetted civilian centres.

The LTTE is battling government forces to establish an independent nation in the northern and eastern regions for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils.

Aid Workers Reportedly Geared for 'Mass Exodus'

BK0111121795 Hong Kong AFP in English
1200 GMT 1 Nov 95

[Report by Anosh Ahamath]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 1 (AFP) — Aid workers Wednesday [1 November] geared for a major humanitarian crisis in northern Sri Lanka following the mass exodus of civilians fleeing a military assault on Tamil guerrillas, officials said.

Diarrhoea has broken out in at least one refugee camp in the north while there is a serious threat of disease at other overcrowded centres accommodating tens of thousands of homeless people, aid officials said.

International aid agencies said they needed fresh medical supplies to tackle a possible diarrhoea epidemic at refugee camps in the northern Jaffna peninsula and in areas held by Tamil guerillas on the mainland.

Between 200,000 to 400,000 civilians may have been displaced since the military launched an offensive against the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the Jaffna peninsula, according to aid workers.

"About 100,000 civilians have already arrived in Thenmaratchi (in the Jaffna peninsula)," a worker attached to an international humanitarian organisation said.

People fled Jaffna town on foot, by bullock-carts, bicycles and trucks to safer areas, relief workers said.

The densely-populated Thenmaratchi area forms the southern part of the peninsula. The LTTE last week said that humanitarian organisations were seeking to declare the Thenmaratchi region "a safe haven" to protect refugees.

As the humanitarian situation worsened, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), which is violently opposed to the LTTE, slammed the government for "neglecting" the plight of refugees.

"A government elected by the people cannot abdicate its responsibilities of safeguarding the lives of its citizens and act with utter disregard for the lives of civilians in the same way as the LTTE," the EPRLF said in a statement.

The EPRLF urged the government to halt the "bombing and shelling" of Thenmaratchi and alleged that 13 civilians in the region were killed in an air raid Sunday.

The EPRLF once fought alongside the LTTE for a separate state for Sri Lanka's minority Tamils but renounced separatism following a 1987 bilateral pact between India and Sri Lanka to end Tamil militancy.

The military has said the 15-day old offensive codenamed Riviresa (Sunshine) is aimed at capturing the town of Jaffna, which is considered the citadel of Tamil separatism.

A mass exodus of civilians began Tuesday as the military announced the capture of Neerveli, a well-fortified town, just eight kilometers (five miles) from Jaffna town.

Tamils arriving on the mainland from the peninsula said that civilians in Jaffna town had also panicked after the LTTE urged them to move into safer areas.

"People in Jaffna are in panic. They are coming to Chavakachcheri with whatever goods they can take," a school teacher from the town of Chavakachcheri was quoted as saying by residents on the mainland.

She was among several civilians, who arrived on the mainland after fleeing the peninsula by boat across the Jaffna lagoon. Chavakachcheri is the main town in the Thenmaratchi region.

Aid workers said that despite the "dangerous situation" in Jaffna town, a large number of civilians had stayed back, most seeking refuge near the Jaffna hospital.

"Some people have remained at home, mostly to look after sick relatives," an aid worker said. The Jaffna hospital and its immediate environs have been declared "a neutral zone" by the International Red Cross.

Most welfare centres on the mainland were packed with women, children and elderly men. The LTTE is not allowing able-bodied men to join the refugee exodus, aid workers said.

Economy Said Progressing Despite Defense Spending

BK3010121195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sri Lanka's economy continued to register an upward trend during the first seven months this year, despite the heavy defense expenditure. The main contributory factor for the rapid progress of the economy was the increase in exports by 20 percent in comparison to the export earnings of the first seven months of last year. Sri Lanka has earned $2,072 million in export earnings during the first seven months this year. Sri Lanka's external assets have also risen to 136,868 million rupees by the end of August. The other positive indications in the country's economy was the increase in tourists arrival. Two hundred eighty thousands and three tourists arrived in the island by the end of August this year.

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